REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES,

1865-66.

NAGPORE: PRINTED AT THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PRESS.

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REPORT

ON THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES' ADMINISTRATION,

1865-66.

INTRODUCTION.

The fifth Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces is now submitted, comprising mainly the proceedings of the year 1865-66. In the introduction to the last Report there was recapitulated all that had been done up to the middle of 1865; and the condition of the country and the people during that year was briefly described. This introductory chapter will, therefore, present only a short review of the condition of affairs in 1866.

The seasons, as affecting the autumn harvest of 1865 and the spring harvest of 1866, though not actually unfavourable, were yet far from being propitious: the summer rains were copious and violent; but the winter showers, so necessary to sustain the vigor of vegetation, fell partially and scantily. In many places, consequently, the crops of wheat, oilseeds, and pulses were stunted or withered. On the other hand, the yield of rice, of millet, of sugarcane, and of cotton, sufficed to reward the husbandman. Last year there was a deficiency in some districts of the rice crop, and in others of the wheat. Thus there has not been a bumper harvest all round for more than two years.

In Chutteesgurh, that is in the eastern districts, especially where cereals are the chief staples, the rice crop partially failed last year, though the wheat had an average productiveness. This year the rice crop has been fairly abundant, but the wheat has been poor. Half the harvest having been deficient for two years running, Chutteesgurh, though still a great producing and exporting country, has hardly

proved itself this year to be, what it once was, the granary of these Provinces. Those convoys of grain which, as described in former Reports, used to flow like a tide from Chutteesgurh westwards to Nagpore have this year been ebbing fast. Of late, scarcely half the usual quantity of cereal produce has been received at the Nagpore markets from the eastern districts. Consequently, Nagpore has drawn large supplies of grain, some twelve thousand five hundred tons, from the districts to the north, and especially from the direction of Jubbulpore. This has caused a drain on the resources of the upper valley of the Nerbudda,—a tract which, heretofore exporting solely towards Bundlecund or Hindostan, has for the first time begun to export southwards to Nagpore. The fact of Nagpore being so largely supplied with food from Jubbulpore instead of from Chutteesgurh, has constituted, for the present at least, a notable change in the interior trade of these Provinces.

While production has been rather below the average, exportation of the articles of food (though in the aggregate not increased, perhaps even slightly decreased) has been yet briskly maintained in several directions. Chutteesgurh, withholding much of its accustomed exportation to the west, has yet exported largely towards Mirzapore by reason of the demand in Behar and that quarter, and towards Cuttack by reason of distress in Orissa. Again, the western districts of these Provinces, if they have not sent as much grain as usual to Malwa, have despatched much more than ever towards Berar and Candeish. Indeed, the fast increasing interchange of commodities between these Provinces and Berar form a prominent feature in the trade of the year. During the last season indeed, Berar received some two thousand three hundred tons of corn from these Provinces, and sent thither some three thousand tons of millet.

These circumstances have tended to the enhancement of the prevailing dearness of provisions, and to the extending of such dearness to places which had until lately been comparatively cheap. Nagpore, dear in prices before, has become dearer still; Jubbulpore, formerly much cheaper, has become as dear as Nagpore. In most parts of these Provinces, wheat and rice, which last year ranged from twelve to sixteen seers for the rupee, can now only be purchased at eight or ten seers for the rupee. A few years ago, eight seers for the rupee would have been considered

a famine price. In some places, such as the Wurdah Valley, the price has been as dear as a rupee for five and six seers. But the greatest change has occurred in Chutteesgurh. There within the last two years the prices have risen from a rupee for thirty seers, to a rupee for twenty seers; and now to a rupee for fourteen seers. This condition contrasts surprisingly with the time, not more than five years ago, when for one rupee there could have been purchased from fifty to eighty seers, and sometimes even ninety or one hundred seers. Thus cheapness seems, as it were, to have been banished from its last retreat.

The yield of Mhowa and other wild fruit has been generally deficient, and in some places has almost failed. These constitute articles of food with the hill tribes and with several of the poorer classes; and any failure must aggravate the pressure of the demand for the more regular sorts of provisions.

The culture of the sugarcane has been generally successful, though not universally so. This plant depends, of course, on irrigation. Where the cane gardens lay under the lee of the dams of the deep-water lakes, filled by the floods of the moonsoon, the produce was fine. Where they lay near shallow tanks, dried up by the absence of the latter rains, the plants withered away over acres and acres of ground. The price of molasses has all the time ranged very high. And those husbandmen who were blessed with rich crops have made considerable sums of money, which they are reputed to have buried in the earth for safety.

The cotton crop was generally fair. The breadth of area under cultivation, though still great, was, as might have been expected, somewhat less than in the preceding year. The returns, however, show no decrease, but on the contrary even some increase of exportation towards Bombay, the amount standing at one hundred and thirty three thousand bales for 1865-66. The Officers responsible for the registering are confident of the correctness of the return; but the result is not easily to be accounted for. There is just the doubt that the increase in the return is due to improved registration. But this much seems certain, that the export of cotton has remained steady during the year. The price of cotton, which once rose to twelve annas (1*s.* 6*d.*) per lb. at Nagpore, and to eleven annas and three pie (1*s.* 5*d.*) per lb. at Hingunghat, the chief

mart, averaged during the year four annas and three pie (6¼*d.*) per lb. at the former place, and four annas and six pie (6¾*d.*) per lb. at the latter. The fluctuations and troubles of the trade at the great centres, have not materially affected the fortunes of the local traders, or of the producers. The experiments in introducing the superior varieties of the staple have been prosecuted with some success during the year. But they have not yet produced any appreciable effect on the culture generally. So also the efforts to teach the natives to prepare, press, and pack the cotton have been persevered in; but it is not likely that the people will really exert themselves to this end, till the opening of the Railway (expected to occur next year) shall bring home to their minds the expediency or necessity of despatching their cotton in a proper state. The Hingunghat staple seems to preserve its reputation for length and strength of fibre; so much so, that the desire on the part of dealers to mix other sorts with it seems to be on the ascendant. During this year no less than twenty-two thousand bales of cotton from Bundlecund or other places have been registered as entering Hingunghat, and thence consigned to Bombay. These consignments are of course sent for the purpose of being mixed with the staple from the Wurdah Valley and being sold as Hingunghat cotton. Whether this procedure amounts to adulteration technically, or to fraud actually, is a moot question still under consideration. But it is, in truth, objectionable, and damages the character of our indigenous staple.

The exports of the Nagpore cotton fabrics of the better kind have increased considerably during the year. Many specimens of these were displayed at the Nagpore Exhibition in January last. On the other hand, the imports of English goods have fallen off within the same period. The Native merchants believe this to be a mere fluctuation in the trade, and anticipate that the quantity of English goods, of the usual sorts, will still mount up. It may perhaps be supposed that they are right, inasmuch as this item has fully quadrupled within the last few years. And during the last season English-made piece goods have been for the first time imported into Nagpore, of a new sort, and of the very same kind as, indeed in close imitation of, those so long and successfully made in and about Nagpore, but at prices thirty per cent. lower. In the English articles the colouring is

much brighter, the texture equally fine, or indeed finer. In the Nagpore articles the interweaving of silk into the borders is superior, and perhaps there may be greater durability. But the difference of price seems conclusive in favour of the English goods. If this import continues, then the decline of the old cloth manufactures of the Nagpore country must set in. As these fabrics would in that case be superseded by cheaper stuffs of equal merit, the result would be good for the people at large. Nor in all probability would it hurt the weaving interest, for the hand-loom weavers would go off to other occupations where their skill and labour would be in greater request. Such has actually been the case with the weavers of the coarser stuffs, who are thrown out of that employment by reason of the increased cost of country cotton and of the influx of machine-made stuffs. These men have in thousands taken to other kinds of labour whence good wages are obtainable.

Much depends commercially, in various ways, on the supply of cattle for load and for draught. There are always murrains, and rumours of murrain, from which these most useful animals seem chronically to suffer. This year has not been free from the scourge, especially as the grass, parched from the want of winter showers, has been scanty. With the growing requirements of trade in respect to bullock-carriage, the wear and tear of animal life and strength has been quite cruelly severe. This has been partially, though not entirely, relieved by the opening of the Railway to points nearer Nagpore This year fifty-six thousand bullocks have been imported into these Provinces, and eighteen thousand have been exported. The prices now ruling are 75 rupees for a common pair of bullocks and 180 rupees for a superior pair. These are much higher than they were formerly; but not so high as they were in 1864, when they stood, respectively, at 100 rupees (£10) and 250 rupees (£25).

As an illustration of the effect of the rise of the price of produce, it may be noted that the keep of a horse now costs more than thirty rupees (£3) a month, all things included, as compared with fourteen rupees (£1 8*s.* 0*d.*) a few years ago. This has affected the charges for the mounted police, the mail service, and such like branches. And it has been necessary to concede compensatory allowances.

The importation of salt into these Provinces has risen during the year, denoting, as the Customs Officers say, increased consumption, and certainly causing a substantial addition to the receipts of that department.

The trade returns of the traffic year, ending in June 1866, having been approximately made up, show an aggregate of trade, including imports and exports, of the Central Provinces with other countries, of one hundred and thirty-nine thousand tons, valued at five crores and eighty-three lakhs of rupees, or five millions and three quarters sterling, as compared with one hundred and forty-six thousand tons for the year ending in June 1865. But the above amounts in both years included Government stores and material for the Railways under construction, which of course are casual and exceptional items. If these items be excluded, then the trade proper of these Provinces with other countries is returned at one hundred and thirty-six thousand tons, valued at five millions five hundred thousand pounds sterling for 1865-66, against one hundred and thirty-four thousand tons, valued at four millions three hundred and eighty-six thousand pounds sterling in 1864-65.* There has thus been some slight increase of quantity. The increase in valuation, of course, mainly arises from the change of prices, and partly from more valuable commodities entering into the trade. During the past year, 1864-65, the trade was shown to have made a great stride onwards. That it should have kept up, and even slightly increased during 1865-66, is perhaps as much as could be expected under the circumstances of the year.

Heretofore the preponderance of exports over imports, both in bulk and value, leaving a large balance to be made up by the importation of bullion, has been a disadvantage in the trade of these Provinces. The bullion, instead of being used as capital and applied to the creation of new wants and the promotion of improvements, is to a great extent converted into ornaments, or emtombed in the earth. This year also, even after allowing for errors in valuation, there has been a large balance (apparently some 40 lakhs, or £400,000) made up by imported bullion, which has probably shared the same fate as the other hoards under ground. For the first time, however, the imports have exceeded the exports in bulk, and in this

* The amount of bullion is excluded in both cases.

respect have touched a higher figure than any yet reached. It may not be safe to generalize from such facts; but perhaps this may be a sign that the people are beginning to buy more articles of taste and luxury than they did.

Wages of all kinds continue to rise. If a common labourer at Nagpore can take his labour to the best market, he would earn eight annas (one shilling) a day. There are certainly many hundreds (some would say thousands) of labourers about Nagpore who do this Thousands, not so fortunate, can still earn from four to six annas. And this occurs in a country where in the last generation the same people could not have earned more than one anna (1½*d.*) a day. The Public Works authorities, with a commendable economy, have managed to keep their rates down to three and four annas a day. But it often happens that they can obtain a supply of labourers only in those seasons when other kinds of work are slack. But here again there is indication of the profit which must be accruing to the lower classes. For where a man in olden days worked hard for a part of the year, he now works continuously. When he has done cotton picking, or weeding in the fields, or garnering the crops of the landholders, he will go to the Road Engineer for a month or two, and stay there till the season for something more lucrative comes round. Moreover, the labourer brings his family also to the work; there being a separate rate allowed (on a lower scale, of course) for women and boys. The extent indeed to which women by thousands are taking to hard outdoor labour, is a proof of the struggle which is going on for existence. Carpenters, masons, bricklayers, who a few years ago would have earned from 6 to 10 rupees a month, can now earn from 15 to 25 rupees (£2 10*s.* 0*d.*). Native gentlemen constantly testify to the increasing difficulty of obtaining or retaining domestic servants, who are always leaving for more profitable occupations.

But although there is ample subsistence for those who can and will work, yet for those who cannot, the times must be very hard and inclement. The poor-houses do not indeed fill for the most part; but in some places there is much private almsgiving on the part of the richer natives. In the Hospitals and Dispensaries, admissions from typhoid fevers denote that sort of debility that proceeds from wretched food. Again, the annals of petty crime teem with instances of the evil inducements pro-

duced by individual want. In some quarters too, as for example parts of Sumbulpore, where from the remoteness of markets the lower classes cannot get wages to enable them to bear up against the high price of food, there is distress. And in our large cities there is that class (adverted to in the Report for 1864) too proud to dig, and ashamed to beg. Scores of such families must be in silence enduring a misery that grows intenser year by year. The comparative ease with which a normal institution for female teachers for the girls' schools was established at Nagpore, is perhaps a token that the broken down respectable classes are recognizing the necessity of exerting themselves. Notwithstanding these seams of poverty to be found among the strata of society, there is no general distress. Murmurs indeed are now and then heard, but none of the outcries that would soon be audible if there was any mass of trouble. Nothing is more common than to hear the natives say, that a dearness of provisions which had it occurred ten or twenty years ago would have excited riots in the towns, and caused the roads to be strewn with the dying, is now scarcely noticed by the majority of the population. If the people be not prosperous (and many would affirm that they are in the main), it must at least be admitted that they bear up bravely against the increased price of food and of all necessaries of life.

Those with fixed incomes, originally calculated to be not exactly ample, but merely sufficient, such as subordinate officials, have for some time past been pinched, and are now becoming pressed down by weight of distress in many cases. Already increases have been granted to the Customs employès, the Police, and such grades, in several districts. And further schemes, with the same view, are in contemplation for the clerks, natives and others, engaged in public offices and the Courts of Justice.

Whatever doubts might be felt, as to whether this or that class is well off, there would probably be unanimity as to the prosperity of the agricultural classes, which was perhaps a topic sufficiently dwelt upon in the last Report. They have had enough for their subsistence, with much over and to spare. Though they had not quite as much as usual available for sale this year, yet, for what they did sell, they got more than ever. The ryot is becoming more and more free from debt and advances. The landholder is either clearing off his old scores, or storing up unprofitably his gains in bullion or cash.

As affecting the interests of this the most important of all classes, the scope and character of the regular Settlement has been adverted to in former Reports. The revised assessment of the land tax, for periods of thirty and twenty years, is now about four-fifths complete. The determination of proprietary right all over the country is nearly finished, that is for about thirty thousand estates or villages. In adjudicating the varied tenures of the land, and adjusting the conflicts of claims, the Settlement Commissioner and his Officers have aimed at securing alike the rights of each class, leaning neither towards the one side nor the other. As explained in previous Reports, an absolute ownership of the land has been conferred upon the people. Besides the sharers in the village properties, by reason of blood and kinship, there is a considerable class of men judged after enquiry to be proprietors of the particular fields they cultivate; these men are, according to the returns, about sixteen thousand in number. Of the ryots, about two-thirds have been recorded as tenants-at-will on their own full admission. Of the remaining one-third, some have been declared, on a review of their past position, to possess full rights of occupancy; and in accepting the Settlement the landholders have engaged to respect those rights; while the rest are those ryots who, merely by length of time, would be held to have the rights contemplated by Act X. of 1859. These latter are informed that their position, in the above respect, depends on the Act, and might possibly be modified if the law were to be altered. All occupancy ryots of course understand that their rent is liable to equitable enhancement (the equitableness, if disputed, to be determinable by a Court of Justice) according as circumstances may change, or as competition may arise. In the large estates or chiefships owned by Zemindars or Chiefs, the position of the village head-men, sometimes called farmers, has been the subject of much doubt and enquiry. Many of these farmers have been decided to be lessees on terminable leases; others have after investigation been ruled to be sub-proprietors under the landlord as a sort of suzerain.

While the claim of the State to any ownership in the cultivated or occupied lands has been formally abandoned in favour of the people, and while, in addition to this, their right in proper quantities of waste has been allowed, it has been necessary to retain and assert the right of the State to the waste lands generally. Indeed, the demarcation of the waste lands has been

a large item in the business of the year. The Government waste thus marked off is managed in much the same manner as formerly; sometimes it is temporarily made over to neighbouring landlords on summary settlements; sometimes it is leased out for grazing, or for fuel preserves: again, pieces are let to individuals on clearance leases, or blocks are sold in fee simple under the rules. Purchases of waste land are becoming frequent; but the purchasers are nearly always Natives, and no marked result has yet been attained.

Last year the repeated out-bursts of epidemic disease, and the state of the public health generally, excited anxiety. This year the people have for the most part been spared these afflictions. If they would profit by such warnings, to be more careful in their habits and improve their dwellings, then adversity might indeed have its uses. But such a reformation, if ever accomplished, must be an affair of some time. Meanwhile, some known causes of epidemics are removed; for instance, those fairs and religious gatherings which are held in the transition season, from spring to summer, are stopped; the streams of pilgrims are diverted from lines of country where disease is known to be generated. Perhaps sanitary reformers may derive encouragement from the fact that cholera has for some years past been proportionately much less in the towns subjected to professional sanitation than in the villages of the interior. In many districts, however, over many square miles of country, the villagers have well responded to the call of the Civil Officers to whitewash dwellings, to remove deleterious rubbish, and the like. In the eastern district (Chutteesgurh), the local authorities made efforts to induce the people to improve the wells and tanks used for drinking purposes. Whether these measures will diminish the morbific forces which seem to be in chronic activity there, remains to be seen. Enquiries made in these districts as to the origin of epidemics have elicited many distressing disclosures regarding the habits of the rural population.

Whether, while the people are obliged by the stress of circumstances to rise up from sloth and work harder, their intelligence increases proportionately, is a question perhaps hard to answer. So far as external signs may be regarded, the schools go on increasing; the number of pupils in Government institutions being now 31,801. The grant-in-aid system expands, Rs. 11,203 (£1,120) being expended in that way, besides

several fresh proposals being under consideration. There is a growing desire to learn English in most districts: this much seems certain, whatever else may be doubtful. The Industrial Exhibitions, one held at Nagpore in December 1865 and one about to be held at Jubbulpore in December 1866, must cast some light upon the minds of the native spectators. And the land revenue settlement, by teaching every landlord and every tenant to look more closely to the survey of his own lands and to the adjustment of his own accounts and of his own rights, must have a sort of educating influence. Still in many parts of the country there is much of superstition, and here and there something of covert fanaticism. In the eastern districts, too, the persistent belief in witchcraft, evidenced sometimes by horrid outrages, despite the stern lessons of the criminal law, is but too clear an index of a low mental condition.

On the whole, and with some few exceptions only, the people in their relations towards the British Government deserve a *good* character. They are for the most part well conducted, not ordinarily addicted to crime, and hardly at all to violent crime; respectful towards the law, and obedient to rules and instructions.

Of the revenue, the main item, the land tax, has always been known to be light. Further demonstration of this has recently transpired. The new surveys in Chutteesgurh (comprising our eastern districts) show the old rates of assessment to have averaged but four annas (6*d.*) on the cultivated acre. These will now be raised by some 25 and 30 per cent., and a net increase of about one lakh and a half of rupees (£15,000) annually will be obtained; but even then, the rate will not exceed 5½ annas (8*d.*) the acre of cultivated land.

The regular income of the forest department has risen from something over half a lakh (£5,000) in 1864-65 to more than one lakh (£10,000) in 1865-66. Besides this amount, the proceeds from waste lands, now declared to be State property, have been separately exhibited this year. The total amounted to one lakh and a quarter (£12,500); of which the greater part constitutes a new head of revenue, which may go on increasing year by year.

The salt duties have remained the same; but their proceeds have risen from sixteen lakhs in 1864-65 to eighteen lakhs (£180,000) in 1865-66. The stamps have increased from five

lakhs to five and three-quarters (£57,250). The revision of the Pandree (Mahratta license duty) has resulted in an increase from one and three-quarter lakhs in 1864-65 to two and a half (£25,000) in 1865-66, notwithstanding that, in order to spare the poor, some 40,000 persons, formerly assessable to the tax, have been exempted.

For the management of the excise on spirits, the new Central Distillery system, though not uniformly successful, has produced somewhat more revenue this year than in former years. Testimony continues to be given from all quarters to the improved, even reformed, habits of the Gonds and hill tribes, resulting from the new system. That system has now been extended to Chutteesgurh. It still remains to be introduced into the country of Nagpore proper.

Of the local fund revenues, the largest item is that of octroi. In some places it was found that these duties had been pitched too high, and they had to be lowered. The income for the year, however, about nine lakhs (about £90,000) shows an increase.

Last year the fiscal receipts of the year, as shown by the Accountant General, amounted to ninety-four lakhs (£940,000) imperial revenue, and fourteen lakhs (£140,000) local funds; in all one hundred and eight lakhs (£1,080,000). This year, 1865-66, the accounts show ninety-eight lakhs (£980,000) imperial revenue, and seventeen lakhs (£170,000) local funds; in all one hundred and fifteen lakhs (£1,150,000). This gives an increase of seven lakhs (£70,000), or 6 per cent. for the year. During this year two lakhs (£20,000) have been lost by the cessation of the income tax. If that were excluded in both years from the comparison, then the gross increase would be nine lakhs (£90,000).

In respect to public improvements, the roads under construction are being carried on to the utmost extent that available means admit of. But the area of these Provinces is so great, as compared with their population and resources, and the ground is in many parts so rough, that it is really difficult by works of this kind to make an impression on the country, or to meet the requirements of the traffic. A very long time must elapse before these Provinces are supplied with a complete system of roads. Buildings for all departments of the public

service are more easily supplied; but in this respect, too, much remains to be done. At five stations, barracks on the new standard plans for the European troops are under construction, or are about being commenced; or else old barracks are being adapted to the modern designs. The actual works for the navigation of the Godavery have not advanced much during the year, by reason of several engineering questions being under discussion. But the project has been forwarded an important step by reason of the prosecution of the work at the third barrier having been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, the operations having been previously restricted to the first and second barriers. The Railway from Bombay has entered these Provinces at two points—the main line having been opened to Khundwa, the head-quarters of Nimar in the valley of the Nerbudda; and the Nagpore branch to Poolgaon, on the left bank of the river Wurdah. The rails have now reached a point within thirty miles of Nagpore. But the completion of the main line to Jubbulpore has been much delayed, and can hardly be expected before the middle of 1868. The branch of the East Indian Railway from Allahabad to Jubbulpore is progressing fairly well, and will probably be completed some time in 1867.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

CHAPTER I.

JUDICIAL.

SECTION I.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

Enforcement of system.

IN my last Report I stated that the Judicial system of these Provinces was theoretically complete in all or nearly all its particulars; and that it remained to carry the system thoroughly into practice. Accordingly no new Laws, or changes influencing largely the administration of Justice, have been introduced during the year 1865-66. The attention of all the supervising Authorities has been directed to the practical working of the Laws and of the reforms previously introduced.

Attention to Law and Procedure.

2. Adherence to the established procedure: to the rules providing against undue detention of suitors and witnesses; to the regulation whereby the record of every case is made by the presiding Judge in his own handwriting; to the order whereby the language of each Court is declared to be the Vernacular of the district; to the injunctions regarding the proper elimination of pleas and issues,—has been continuously enforced. As observed in my last Report, the mere mention of these matters gives no adequate idea of the labor and attention required from supervising Officers, before all the different grades of Courts, presided over by Europeans and Natives, can be brought fully to act up to the instructions they receive. The periodical returns rendered from the various Courts do indeed show the amount of Judicial business done, and the expedition with which it is performed; but personal inspection and supervision alone suffice to test the quality of the work despatched by our Judicial Officers.

Special supervision of the Courts.

3. The manner in which this inspection and supervision is conducted is twofold. The supervising Authorities themselves visit the Subordinate Courts, and scrutinize the records, the procedure, and the decisions of the presiding Judge. It will be recollected that the Subordinate Courts in these Provinces are, Tehseeldars' Courts, Assistant Commissioners' Courts, Small Cause Courts; while the Superior Courts are, Deputy Commissioners' Courts, Commissioners' Courts, Judicial Commissioner's Court. Every month each Deputy Commissioner scrutinizes the records of a certain number of the cases decided by the Tehseeldars under him; the Commissioner scrutinizes a proportion of the cases

decided by the Assistant Commissioners of his Division or Commissionership. Each supervising Officer after such examination draws up a memorandum of the errors of procedure, or of judgment, which he has detected, and returns the cases with the memorandum to the Subordinate Court. In this way our Subordinate Civil Judges are receiving real instruction month by month. The Judicial Commissioner does not, in the ordinary course of things, scrutinize the cases of any Subordinate Court, except the Small Cause Courts; but whenever he has reason to think that any particular Court is careless or inattentive, he sends for a batch of cases from that Court, and takes such measures as may compel the presiding Judge to amend his errors. Further, the Judicial Commissioner from time to time examines cases decided in the Commissioners' and Deputy Commissioners' Courts. During the year under report all our Subordinate Civil Courts (except in the Jubbulpore Division) have been inspected by the Commissioners. Most of the Courts have been inspected by the Judicial Commissioner during his tour; and on his return to head-quarters he issued a Circular Order commenting on the various irregularities and errors noticed in the several Courts he had visited.

Two points in which shortcoming is still apparent.

4. The two points in our Judicial administration which still require much care, are the same which I noticed in my last year's report, viz., the training of our Tehseeldars to be good Civil Judges, and the enforcement of the rule regarding the proper elimination of pleas and issues. Both these matters are being constantly watched with much attention.

Increase of Litigation.

5 The Judicial statistics of the year show that Civil litigation has increased considerably, in respect both of the number of suits and of their average value. There were 39,188 suits, involving property and rights valued at Rs. 31,24,495 (£312,449), instituted during the year 1865, as compared with 32,655 suits, involving Rs 20,02,965 (£200,296), in the preceding year. The average value of each suit in the year 1865 was Rs. 77 (£7-14*s.*), against Rs. 60 (£6) in the preceding year. The increase in litigation was greatest in the districts which hitherto had been comparatively backward and uncivilized; it was, moreover, apparent in all districts but one, and was spread over most of the Courts. This increase may perhaps be taken under existing circumstances as some proof that the population of these Provinces are progressing in wealth and prosperity.

Classification of Suits.

6. The proportion of increase in the several classes of Suits may be shown as follows:—

	No. of Cases.	
	1864.	**1865.**
Suits for or connected with Inheritance.	**170**	**177**
Marriage, Betrothal, &c..	**202**	**294**

	No. of Cases.	
	1864.	1865.
Religious Shrines and Customary fees..	111	142
Personal service	496	468
Mortgage	71	134
Tenancy, &c., of houses	359	314
Specific performance	429	155
Torts	388	521
Partnership	177	205
Debt on registered bonds	225	335
Debt other than on registered bonds ..	22,555	32,643
Other Suits not included in the above — Real property ..	1,304	1,403
Other Suits not included in the above — Personal property.	1,720	2,063

It will be observed that more than four-fifths of the litigation is made up of simple cases, for parole and book debts.

Suits between Money lenders and Agriculturists.

7. In about one-fifth of the whole Civil litigation the Cases were between agriculturists and money-lenders. This proportion does not seem large; and the fact of its being so moderate is perhaps a cause for congratulation. It varied greatly in the different districts. In the Nagpore and Chutteesgurh Divisions the custom is for tenants to borrow money and seed-corn from their landlords; in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions tenants borrow from local bankers, as in other parts of India. Landlords can usually settle with their tenants, without taking them into Court; while a rupture between a banker and his client usually ends in litigation. In support of this view, which was set forth and explained in my last Report, we find that for the year 1865 suits between bankers and agriculturists are, compared with the population—

In the Nagpore Division,	1	to	every	1,500	souls.
Do.	Jubbulpore	do.	do.	do.	800	do.
Do.	Nerbudda	do.	do.	do.	350	do.
Do.	Chutteesgurh	do.	do.	do.	1,100	do.

Average duration of Suits.

8. Satisfactory and sufficient promptitude continues to be shown by the Courts. Out of 39,632 Suits for disposal during the year 1865, only 343 cases were pending at its close. The average duration of each suit was 16 days; and the Judicial Commissioner considers that this average is as low as can be maintained, if all the requirements of the Law are fulfilled. In only one district was the average duration at all high, and even there it was only 31 days. In the Courts, generally, each suit came up for hearing three times, there being reckoned as a hearing both the day on which the suit was filed and the day on which decision was given.

9. The average cost of each suit during the year 1865 was 9 per cent. on its value, against 8 per cent. in the preceding year. The percentage of costs to value varied in the different districts in inverse proportion to the value of the suits; that is to say, justice was cheaper in the greater cases, and dearer in the smaller ones. This disproportion is perhaps inevitable, though it should be guarded against as much as possible. Still, on the whole, the costs generally are fairly moderate. That economy and management are adopted, is shown by existence of a surplus of the fees realized on the serving of processes after all expenses are paid. This surplus now amounts to Rs. 60,000, or £6,000, and will be devoted to measures for the improvement of the Judicial machinery and for the benefit of suitors.

Cost of each Suit.

Classification of Decisions.

10. The mode in which cases were disposed of, may thus be shown:—

Struck off on default	15	per cent. of total cases.
Settled out of Court by compromise ..	14	ditto.
Judgment confessed..	34	ditto.
Decided *ex parte*	11	ditto.
Referred to arbitration	1	ditto.
Decided on their merits after trial. ..	25	ditto.

The large proportion of cases in which judgment was confessed is perhaps satisfactory, as showing that the Courts are so far used as engines for the enforcing of just and clear claims. Out of the cases which were decided after trial, 77 per cent. went in favor of plaintiffs in whole or in part, and 23 per cent. in favor of defendants. The proportion of cases referred to arbitration is very small. This process does not seem to have become popular; but the attention of the Judicial authorities has been directed to the point.

Business of Appellate Courts.

11. While the Original suits increase, the number of Appeals preferred against the orders of Subordinate Courts continues to decrease. There were 1,468 Appeals in the year 1863, 1,378 in the year 1864, and 994 in the year 1865. The proportion of Appeals to cases disposed of in the last-named year was only 2·56 per cent. The Appellate Courts—

upheld the order in	64	per cent. of the cases;	
modified	„	7	„ ditto;
reversed	„	16	„ ditto;
remanded for re-trial		10	„ ditto.

All the above circumstances tend to the inference that the work is well done. Only three per cent. of the Appeals were pending at the close of the year. The average duration of Appeals in the Commissioners' Courts was 36 days in the year 1865, against 187 days in the preceding year, and 368 days in the year 1863. The average duration of cases on Appeal, as well of Original suits, is now as low as it can be expected to be.

Execution of Decrees.

12. Among the miscellaneous business which came before the Civil Courts during the year were 21,795 claims for execution of Decree, against 18,908 in the preceding year. 95 per cent. of these cases were decided during the year, and only 5 per cent. were pending at its close.

Authorized Pleaders.

13. In my last Report I stated that a few candidates had passed the prescribed examination and had received certificates as authorized Pleaders. Several more candidates have passed during the year; and at all of our principal District Courts there is the *nucleus* of a Native Bar. The services of these Pleaders are much in request among the better classes of suitors.

Judicial Commissioner's general opinion.

14. I will conclude this Section by quoting the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, who reports that "altogether our Civil Courts have done well "during the year. Good judgment has been shown in the decision of cases, and a decided improvement effected in procedure."

SECTION II.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

15. Observing the order followed in my previous Reports, I will notice the administration of Criminal Justice under two heads; *first*, the state of Crime; *secondly*, the action of the Courts.

Aggregate of Crime in the Central Provinces.

16. The following figures show that, as noticed in my last Report, the number of reported offences has a tendency to increase :—

	Cognizable.	*Non-cognizable.*	*Total.*
1864.....	18,900	11,754	30,654
1865.....	22,297	10,279	33,576

This increase is mainly confined to minor and less heinous crimes. Some of the increase is due to the strictness with which the Laws and Rules for the maintenance of public health are now enforced. A similar vigilance has been exercised in enforcing the Revenue Laws, and the number of prosecutions under the Stamp and Abkaree (liquor excise) Laws has increased considerably. The continued rise in prices, though greatly compensated for by a corresponding rise in wages, may perhaps have caused distress to individuals, and thus temptation to commit petty crimes against property may have arisen. The facilities and conveniences given to complainants also operate to some extent in encouraging aggrieved persons to resort to our Criminal Courts.

Decrease of Heinous Crime.

17. In the eight worst kinds of crime the general decrease adverted to in my last Report continues, as will be seen from the following Table :—

	Number of Cases in			
	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
Murder	98	116	92	95
Attempt to Murder	14	16	13	11
Culpable Homicide, not amounting to Murder	29	37	20	20
Dacoity	61	73	32	25
Robbery	84	67	76	54
Attempt at Robbery	..	..	8	..
Administering stupifying Drugs with attempt to cause hurt ..	2	5	3	10
Rape	52	42	53	25
TOTAL ..	340	356	277	240

The totals of these heinous crimes show a diminution of 18 per cent as compared with the year 1864. The proportion of heinous crimes to the population, being 1 to every 37,500 souls, may be regarded as small generally. It is found to be less in the Mahratta Districts around Nagpore than in any other part of these Provinces.

18. Out of the 95 Murders, only 18 appear to have been committed for the sake of plunder; the rest appear to have been perpetrated in fits of jealousy, or of some other passion. But the number is not on the whole large.

Gradual repression of Dacoity.

19. The decrease in Dacoities, and Robberies with violence, is the best feature in the Criminal Returns of the year. Dacoities have fallen from 32 in the year 1864, to 25 in the year 1865; while Robberies with violence have decreased from 76 to 54. And the Judicial Commissioner reports that "many of these cases are not what is "usually understood by the term Dacoity, but are merely ordinary "offences against property." Much of this good result is due, as mentioned in my last Report, to the operations of the Special Dacoity Department, whose sole duty it is to trace these cases to their original source; and to bring to certain, though tardy, justice gangs or persons who make their living by violent crime. I share the general belief that there are not now in these Provinces any persons who live by crime of this sort. The evil, however, is as yet far from being eradicated; for the tribes who formerly subsisted by violence are still in the country. If their strength has been reduced, still a *nucleus* of them must be in existence. They are ready to return to their old practices directly opportunity offers. Sometimes, despite all precautions that can be taken, a district or locality which had been for months entirely free from violent crime, becomes suddenly the scene of several startling outrages. We must be prepared to keep preventive efforts on full strain and tension for some time to come.

Other Crimes.

20. Of the other kinds of heinous crime the number of reported cases is small. Rape and Adultery seem to be rare among the people. Offences against the Coin have fallen from 84 in the year 1864, to 63 in the year 1865. The crime of Thuggee is unknown. There are no reported cases of infanticide.

Witchcraft.

21. The consequences of the popular belief in witchcraft—a superstition prevailing in the eastern parts, but not in other parts of these Provinces—form a melancholy episode in the Criminal Report. Whenever any calamity befalls the villagers, a cruel persecution of supposed witches sets in. Such persecutions of individuals does not always stop at maltreatment, but often goes on to murder. In such cases the murderers have been executed on the scene of the atrocity, in order to heighten the example.

Increase in minor Crimes.

22. Under the less important heads of Crime against Property there is an increase of reported cases. Ordinary Burglaries (House Trespass) have increased from 5,233 cases in the year 1864, to 6,891 in the year 1865. Under Ordinary Theft we have 9,618 cases, as compared with 9,019 in the preceding year. These facts do certainly merit serious consideration. A part of this increase probably arises from the sufferers being more willing to report their losses to the Police. Again, our Magistrates declare that landholders are beginning to act more and more up to their duty in respect of reporting crime, and this very properly would somewhat swell the returns. It is, moreover, true that in most Indian Provinces the number of reported crimes of this class does increase yearly for some time after the country is brought under regular Government. But, whatever weight may be attached to these legitimate causes of increase, I do not consider that we should rest satisfied with a large yearly increase in the returns of Petty Crime, unless we can show a much larger proportion of offenders brought to justice. I have impressed this view on all Magistrates and Police Officers.

Recovery of stolen Property

23. The proportion recovered out of the aggregate of property stolen was 31 per cent. in the year 1865, as compared with 33 per cent. in the preceding year. The total value of stolen Property was Rs. 4,06,132 (£40,613) in the year 1865, against Rs. 4,01,761 (£40,176) in the year 1864. The number of successful prosecutions of receivers of stolen property continues to increase.

Cattle Theft.

24. The reported cases of Cattle Theft were 1,012 in the year 1865, against 1,208 in the previous year. The number of these offences reported to the Police has now been steadily decreasing during the last three years; while the proportion of convictions to reported cases has steadily increased. How far the decrease can be counted as real, may be doubtful. But even if all the offences of this class that occur are not reported, still the action of the Police and the Magistrates, so far as it goes, is good.

Increase in complaints for Petty Offences.

25. The number of complaints in cases not cognizable by the Police has risen from 11,140 in the year 1864, to 11,448 in the year 1865. As remarked in my last Report, this small, but continuous increase is, to some extent, a sign that the people find resort to the magisterial Courts easy and inexpensive.

26. I now come, *secondly*, to the action of the Courts :—

Despatch of Business.

The despatch of business in our Magisterial Courts continues to be prompt in all districts. Out of 20,606 cases for disposal before the Courts during the year, there were only 66 pending at its close; out of 38,095 persons for trial during the year, there were only 117 under trial at its end. The average duration of the several classes of trials was—

In cases sent up by the Police	3¼	days.
In cases taken up on complaint	6	„
In cases committed to the Sessions Court. ..	50	„
In appeals to Commissioners, as Sessions Judges.	21	„

Results of Trials generally.

27. The results of the Criminal trials of the year may be thus shown :—

(1). Of the total number of persons brought to trial before the Magistrates in cases cognizable by the Police, 84 per cent. were convicted or committed to the Sessions in the year 1865, against a percentage of 76 in the previous year.

(2). In cases instituted before the Magistrates on complaint, without the intervention of the Police, 62 per cent. of the persons summoned or arrested were convicted in the year 1865, as compared with 53 per cent. in the year 1864.

(3). Out of 443 persons committed to the Sessions Courts during the year, 68 per cent. were convicted and 32 per cent. acquitted. Last year the percentages were, respectively, 80 and 20.

(4). Out of 637 cases which were appealed to the higher Courts, the orders of the Magistrates of different grades were modified in 58 cases, and reversed in 86.

These results are, on the whole, good. The Judicial Commissioner considers the returns to show "that a very small proportion of innocent "men are placed at the bar; that the proportion of convictions to "trials is becoming more and more satisfactory, though there is "still room for improvement in this respect; and that the result of the "action of Appellate Courts is especially creditable to the higher "District Courts."

Analysis of Punishments awarded.

28 The manner in which punishments were inflicted may be illustrated thus :—

Out of 24,323 persons convicted during the year—

153	persons	were	sentenced to	imprisonment, whipping, and fine.
173	"	"	"	imprisonment and whipping.
1,480	"	"	"	imprisonment and fine.
3,287	"	"	"	imprisonment only.
4,063	"	"	"	whipping only.
15,220	"	"	"	fine only.

For each person sentenced to the several kinds of punishment, the average term of imprisonment was 7½ months, the average amount of fine was 10½ rupees (£1 1*s.* 0*d.*), the average number of stripes was 16. The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs 1,77,985 (£17,798), out of which 70 per cent. was realized, and Rs. 21,923 (£2,192) were ordered to be paid to sufferers.

The above analysis may be considered to show that the Law has been administered with a fair degree of discrimination, and that full recourse is had to the punishments of fine and whipping.

General conduct of the Criminal Courts.

29. In respect to the general conduct of the Criminal Courts, the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Campbell, writes:—

Procedure.

"It may, I think, safely be said that in Procedure steady progress has been made. Last marching season, in the course of a very lengthened tour, I had an opportunity of noting the errors in Procedure which were most general. These I embodied in a Circular Order to all Officers of the Provinces, and the result has been that the errors then pointed out have since, to a great extent, been avoided: and the example of close inspection has been well followed by Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners."

30. Touching the reform adverted to in my previous reports, whereby evidence in Criminal trials is taken down by the presiding Judge, the Judicial Commissioner, in his annual Report, records the following opinion:—

Record of evidence.

"The experience of the year entirely confirms what I wrote in my last Report, as to the great advantage gained by the introduction of the system of having all evidence recorded in the handwriting of the Officers themselves. The system has not been found in practice to entail any real extra labor, while it has brought the Officers into much more immediate communication with the parties concerned in cases, either as principals or witnesses; and the corrupt influences formerly so common about our Courts have not now the same power for evil."

Honorary Magistrates.

31. There have been 60 Honorary Magistrates at work in the various districts of these Provinces during the year. Of these, six are Europeans, and the rest Natives of India. These gentlemen disposed of 4,114 cases, or more than one-fifth of the Criminal trials of the year. In noticing the judicial business done by Honorary Magistrates, the Judicial Commissioner,

Mr. Campbell, writes "that Deputy Commissioners generally report "extremely well of the work done by their Honorary Magistrates."

To this I would add that our Civil Officers generally are beginning to appreciate better than they did the important scope of the measure of creating Honorary Magistrates, as tending to raise the character of the upper classes, and ultimately to produce a good moral effect on the people at large.

SECTION III.—POLICE.

Strength of the Police

32. As in previous Reports, I will first state the strength and cost of the Police in these Provinces, as they stood during the year.—

	Men	*Rs.*	*£.*
Regular Police paid from the General Revenues	7,527	12,06,656	120,666
Municipal Police paid from Local Funds	1,518	1,36,933	13,693
TOTAL ..	9,045	13,43,589	134,359

This shows an increase of 707 men, and Rs. 1,00,000 (£10,000) in round numbers caused by the provision of Police for the Bijeeragogurh territory, which was added to the Jubbulpore District during the year; by compensation being allowed to the Constabulary in certain districts on account of the dearness of grain; and by additions made to the Police of Towns. About half the total increase of expenditure is, however, chargeable to Local Revenues.

Success of Police in tracing out Crime.

33. The action of the Police, as tested by the proportion of apprehensions made in reported crimes, continues to show good results. In 1865 apprehensions were made in 81·0 per cent. of the crimes reported, while in 1864 the proportion was 81·7 per cent. Under the more notable heads of crime the out-turn of 1864 was creditable; and the following table shows progressive improvement in 1865:—

OFFENCES	Of cases reported, apprehensions were made in		Of persons sent* up to Magistrate for trial, there were convicted or committed	
	Cases per cent.		Persons per cent.	
	1864.	1865.	1864.	1865.
Murder	94·5	92·1	97·8	98·2
Dacoity	73·5	81·2	87·5	100·0
Robbery with hurt	74·0	63·6	90·0	100·0
Robbery	57·9	80·8	91·9	86·5

Repression of Heinous Crime and Dacoity

34. But the most remarkable feature of the Returns, is the general decrease in the more heinous offences. My last Report showed a decided decrease in this respect; in the year now under review there is found a further decrease of 18 per cent. The downward tendency is happily perceptible in respect to Dacoity. The attention of the Police has been persistently directed to the repression of this crime, and the Judicial Commissioner reports the diminution to be largely owing to the success of the efforts thus put forth.

In	1862	there were	50	dacoities.
„	1863	„	56	„
„	1864	„	31	„
„	1865	„	20	„

The Special Dacoity Agency has hunted up both gangs and individuals, bearing, in some instances, the character of professional dacoits; and scarce a month passes without some old offender or some actor in these atrocities being haled before the Judge. Despite all this, however, there still occur cases which prove that even now there are persons in the country both able and ready to attack either houses or villages in a manner which resembles the normal and regular type of dacoity. So to speak then, dacoity, at the best, is only scotched; it is certainly not yet killed.

Miscellaneous duties of Police.

35. The miscellaneous and administrative duties of the Police are still heavy—5,550 miles of high-road have been daily patrolled; a daily average of 4,016 prisoners have been guarded in the different Jails and lock-ups; while Treasure guards and Treasure escorts have been furnished as in previous years.

* Persons arrested but discharged before trial are not included in this statement.

Improvement in detective ability of Police.

36. The Judicial Commissioner testifies that there is a gradual improvement in the detective ability of the Police, and that the Chief Constables are better instructed in their duties than they were. The above points, however, still constitute the weakest parts of the system, and much more improvement is still to be looked for.

Relations between the Police and the Magistrates.

37. Last year the improved relations between the Magistracy and the Police were adverted to with satisfaction. That favorable report is repeated this year, and these relations are stated by the Civil Officers to be as good as could reasonably be expected.

Bearing of the Police towards the people.

38. Again, the Judicial Commissioner, in endorsing the opinion of the several Commissioners and the Magistrates, has recorded emphatic testimony to the general good conduct of the Police, both as regards their performance of duty and their bearing towards the people. The appearance, drill, and discipline of the men continue to be creditable.

Police buildings.

39. The standard plans for all Police buildings having now been sanctioned by the Supreme Government, it is hoped that the construction of these buildings will progress with greater speed than heretofore. The manner in which the Police Department have maintained the existing temporary buildings, and have planted trees round about the same, with the moderate funds placed at their disposal, is satisfactory.

Violent Deaths.

40. The Police Returns furnish the following statistics of deaths, which may be interesting :—

	Died.	*Injured.*
From falling into tanks, wells, and rivers..	904	67
From wild beasts	546	137
From snake-bites	651	112
From fire	82	..
From the fall of walls and houses.. ..	65	15
From other causes	345	55
From suicide	341	..

41. The same Returns show that by accidental fires during the year some 7,560 houses were burnt down, with a total destruction of property valued at Rs. 4,03,831, or £40,383.

Destruction of wild Animals.

42. The following statistics of the number of wild beasts destroyed in the districts during the year may also be added in this place :—

Tigers	543
Panthers and Leopards	760
Bears	392
Wolves	168
Hyænas	387
TOTAL ..	2,250

for which, rewards to the amount of Rs. 35,462 (£3,546) were paid.

SECTION IV.—JAILS.

Jail Buildings.

43. The four Central Jails under construction have advanced a stage. The buildings at Nagpore are more than half completed. Those at Raepore, Jubbulpore, and Hoshungabad are being pushed on, but no accommodation in them was available at the close of the year. All the 13 District Jails have been much improved, though it has not yet been possible to make them all perfect according to modern requirements. The remaining five districts have Lock-ups built on new designs, which provide for all the recommendations of the Indian Jail Committee. In the construction and repair of all these Jail buildings there was an average of 784 prisoners per diem employed throughout the year 1865.

Number of Prisoners.

44. The total number of prisoners admitted into Jail was 9,935 in the year 1865, against 11,252 in the year previous. The daily average number was 4,016, compared with 4,193 in the previous year. Of the total admissions, 109 were juvenile prisoners, against 249 in the preceding year; the satisfactory decrease being attributable to the operation of the Whipping Act. Of the whole number of prisoners there were—

9	per cent.	imprisoned on a	second	conviction.
2	"	"	third	"
½	"	"	fourth	"
¼	"	"	fifth	"

Jail Discipline.

45. The behaviour of the prisoners was, on the whole, good; for of the 14,118 prisoners who passed through the Jails during the year, only 804 were punished for breaches of discipline. The "good conduct system" is now in full working order, and it has already resulted in the improved behaviour of the prisoners. By the employment of prisoners as guards, warders, and work-overseers, it has been possible too to reduce the cost of the Contingent Guard. The number of prisoners who escaped during the year was 20, of whom 9 were recaptured. The escapes were less numerous in those Jails where the system of convict warders was most completely carried out.

Health in Jails during the year.

46. The prison death-rate has increased from 7½ in 1864 to 12¼ per cent. in 1865; though the daily average of admissions into hospital shows little increase when compared with former years. Cholera attacked eight of the Jails once during the year, one Jail (Nagpore) three times, and one Jail (Raepore) twice. Of the total 488 deaths, 143, or 29 per cent., are due to these visitations. The disease was generally prevalent in epidemic form in the cities and towns in the neighbourhood

of the Jails which were attacked. On the other hand, instances did occur of Cholera raging in the adjoining city or town, and not touching the inmates of a Jail. In none of the Jails which suffered could the visitation be traced directly to any sanitary defects. The prisoners were invariably at once removed into Camp when the outbreak began to show itself. The food and clothing of the prisoners were increased, disinfectants were used, and the local authorities did their best under emergent and distressing circumstances. Looking at the number of deaths from all causes in the Jails individually, the percentage was highest in Raepore, viz. 31·75, and lowest in Dumoh, viz. 0·80.

Finance of the Jails.

47. The average cost per prisoner under all heads of expenditure rose from Rs. 50-13-7 (£5 1*s.* 8*d.*) in 1864 to Rs. 57-14-7 (£5 15*s.* 10*d.*) in 1865, mainly under the head of "cost of rations," owing to the rise in prices. But the net cost to the State, after deducting the profits, direct and indirect, accruing from prison labor on manufactures and public works, was Rs. 25 (£2 10*s.* 0*d.*) only, which, compared with the net cost in the year previous, viz. Rs. 28¼ (£2 16*s.* 6*d.*), shows improvement.

Education of Prisoners.

48. The number of prisoners under instruction in the prison schools learning to read and write was 2,818, which, compared with last year, shows a slight decrease, owing to the larger proportion of prisoners employed on Jail buildings and other extra-mural Public works. Of the number of prisoners in Jail on the last day of the year, there were 266 who could read and write, and 1,321 who could read only; the remainder, or 1,941, could neither read nor write. Thus the proportion of those who had some, though a small, sort of education, was far from inconsiderable. The District Inspectors of the Educational Department continue to visit these Jail schools and supervise the course of instruction.

CHAPTER II.

REVENUE

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

Collections of the past and present year.

49. The demand on account of the Land Tax for the year 1865-66 was Rs. 55,65,810 (£556,581), or Rs. 62,677 (£6,267) below the demand for the previous year. The real Land Revenue demand of the year has not, however, in any way fallen: the decrease has occurred in the demands *nominally* due, which have fallen from Rs. 1½ lakhs (£150,000) to Rs. 36,092 (£3,609). Of the year's demand, Rs. 54,32,817 (£543,281) were collected in the year 1865-66, as compared with Rs. 53,91,977 (£5,39,197) in the year 1864-65. Rs. 20,479 (£2,047) were also collected on account of outstanding demands of former years. The balances on account of the Land Tax of 1865-66, which remained outstanding at the close of the year, amounted to Rs. 62,293 (£6,229); of this sum Rs. 36,092 (£3,609) were only *nominally* due, the remainder, Rs. 26,201 (£2,620), being the actual revenue which remained outstanding. The amount of this, the *real* balance, was owing, not to any inability of the Tax payers, but to an accidental misinterpretation in two districts of orders issued about the re-adjusting of the instalments. This balance, however, amounts to only one-half per cent., the merest fraction of the demand, and has been realized since the close of the year.

Progress of the regular Settlement.

50. The work of regular Settlement has been in progress during the period under report in everyone of the eighteen districts in these Provinces. By the close of the year 1865-66 the Settlement had been quite completed in five districts, viz. Saugor, Dumoh, Hoshungabad, Nursingpore, and Bartool. In five more, viz. Wurdah, Seonee, Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and Bhundara, it was far advanced, and will be completed during the current year. The above ten districts comprise all the most important parts of these Provinces. In the other eight districts there is still much Settlement work to do.

Assessment of the Land Tax.

51. The Land Tax of 3,387 villages or estates was regularly assessed during the year. The amount of the revised assessments was Rs. 4,92,473 (£49,247), or 12½ per cent. above the revenue which those estates formerly paid. The net result of the revision of assessments up to the present date has been an increase of 6 per cent. in the Land Tax of these Provinces.

Record of right in the land.

52. During the year 1865-66 a large quantity of business has been done in investigating, deciding, and recording the several kinds of rights in the land. The investigations into tenant right have been conducted with particular attention, and by careful revision effort has been made to eliminate and rectify error. The quality of the work done is good, so far as can be judged from the decisions of the Appellate Courts. The people themselves also seem to have a keen appreciation of the manner in which their rights are being recorded. The total business performed up to the end of the year 1865-66 under this important division of Settlement operations may be thus shown :—

Superior proprietary rights in 25,634 villages have been investigated and decided.

The rights of 15,644 owners of holdings have been investigated and recorded.

The status of 65,000 hereditary tenants has been enquired into and settled.

82,209 ryots have been found to possess occupancy right under Act X. of 1859, and have been recorded accordingly.

The holdings of 245,162 tenants-at-will have been attested, and the rents payable by them for the year of attestation have been recorded.

The claims and rights of village servants have been enquired into and settled for about 20,000 villages.

Revenue free *(Enam)* lands.

53. The enquiry into *Maafee* (revenue-free) grants of land has been completed in ten districts, and has much advanced in the rest. It appears that land revenue, amounting to about Rs. 3,09,387 (£30,938) per annum, is assigned under the category of revenue free tenures to private individuals or religious bodies. The total area of these assignments is about 1,641,655 acres. But the revenue on much of these assigned lands is foregone only for the lives of the present occupants It is also probable that, when the enquiries and revisions are completed, some reduction will have to be made in the foregoing totals.

Other operations of the Settlement.

54. The other stages of the Settlement have advanced during the year. The business of measuring villages field by field is everywhere complete, except in some parts of Mundla and Chutteesgurh and in the recently added district of Nimar. The demarcation of excess waste lands, which remain as Government property, and are not bestowed in proprietary right on private persons, has been vigorously prosecuted, and is almost everywhere complete. In every district of the Central Provinces there are now valuable State properties, with a total area for each district ranging from three hundred thousand acres to seven hundred thousand acres. These lands are available either for purchase under the "Waste land sale rules," or for occupation on clearance leases, or for rent as pasture farms. Meanwhile, being separately marked

off and supervised, and being thus, as it were, brought to account, the dues receivable by the State are better ascertained, and the waste lands yield a large and increasing revenue year by year.

Advances to landholders for improving their properties.

55. Advances of money from the Treasury to landholders requiring the means for executing works of agricultural improvement, repayable by instalments without interest, have been made during the year in 152 cases. The recipients of such advances also spend considerable sums from their own resources on the tanks, wells, or other works for which the money is granted. Precaution is taken to ensure that the advances are really spent on the works for which they were intended. The periodical reports show that the various works are progressing well. The punctuality, with which instalments due on advances of former years are repaid, to some extent shows that the landholders fully estimate the advantages conferred upon them.

Annual Village Papers.

56. In previous years I have had to report that, while Settlement operations were in progress, the yearly village papers, which form a continuous record of all facts relating to the land, its holders, and its occupiers, could not be prepared with punctuality or exactness. During the year 1865-66, however, the revenue authorities have been able to pay some attention to this important subject, and the yearly papers for villages have been punctually prepared. I have arranged that still more care shall be given to this matter during the current year. It is very necessary that these documents should be correctly prepared and punctually received; for on them depend the continuity of the record of property compiled at the regular Settlement, and also the stability of the rights which vest in a vast body of tenantry.

Suits between landlord and tenant.

57. The total number of cases decided in the Revenue Courts during the year, under the "Law of landlord and tenant," was 5,056, besides 1,279 petitions for execution of decree. There were only 56 cases and 80 petitions for execution of decree undecided at the end of the year. These numbers are about the same as those for the previous year. An analysis of these cases shows that three quarters of the business under these Laws consist of suits brought by landlords to recover arrears of rent. Litigation under the Rent Laws of a more intricate kind, such as suits for fixing rate of rent, and the like, has not yet arisen, because questions of this kind are set at rest, temporarily at least, by the Settlement Courts.

The harvests of the year.

58. The total rain-fall of the year 1865-66 was quite equal to the average of the last ten years. But the rains were not, on the whole, seasonable; for almost the whole of the rain-fall was registered before the end of August. As a consequence, the rice crops of Chutteesgurh and of the Wyne Gunga Valley yielded the only good harvest of the year. The millet (Jowaree)

and cotton crops were tolerably good; the wheat and other spring crops were in some localities fair, and in others very poor. The crop of the Mhowa (*Bassia latifolia*) flower, which has an important bearing on the comfort of the hill people, failed almost entirely. Notwithstanding all this, there has not been in a single district of the Central Provinces anything approaching to general starvation or want. It is the unanimous testimony of all the local authorities that the chief classes of the population are well off. But there are instances, perhaps even many instances, of individual distress. The great and continued rise in prices has compensated farmers for the shortness of their crops. The wages of daily labor continue to rise. The price of skilled labor has risen even more largely than any other kind of wages. The only class which seems to suffer from the universal rise in prices is the official class. Subordinate officials and petty pensioners do, it is believed, often find it difficult to live on their means. It is even stated by some District Officers that the efficiency of the public service in the dearer districts is becoming impaired from this cause.

Rise in price of landed property.

59. Now that the people understand the meaning of the proprietary rights conferred upon them, transfers of landed property are becoming common. The selling price of land is everywhere rising. As yet, the general price of lands in the Nagpore country does not exceed two or three times the land tax assessed upon it. But in the districts above the Hills lands usually fetch five or six times the amount of their land tax. And an estate near Baitool, which was sold during the year, fetched a fancy price equal to seventeen times the land tax payable upon it.

60. I will conclude this Section by subjoining the following extract from an interesting statement which the Settlement Commissioner compiled, to show the rise of prices which has everywhere taken place. It will be seen that during the last six years prices have risen cent. per cent. in every district; in many districts they have risen 300 per cent., and in one district 700 per cent.

	Number of seers of Wheat procurable for one rupee, in the year—*	
	1861.	1866.
Nagpore	27	9½
Bhundara	22	10
Wurdah	24	8½
Chanda	37	7
Jubbulpore	48	15
Saugor	27½	14
Mundla	54½	14
Seonee	42¼	13½
Dumoh	33	12
Hoshungabad	42	15¾

* Each seer is equal to about two pounds in weight.

Nursingpore	36	13¼
Baitool	37	12
Chindwara	33¼	11¾
Raepore	49	16
Belaspore	120	15
*Sumbulpore	47	8
*Upper Godavery District	40	8

SECTION II.—OTHER TAXES (SALT TAX, EXCISE ON SPIRITS AND LIQUORS, STAMPS, &c.).

Salt and Sugar Duties.

61. The several kinds of salt which are consumed in these Provinces, and the manner in which our salt revenue is raised, have been fully explained in my previous Reports. In my last report I mentioned that the substitution of the Imperial Customs cordon for a local line along our western frontier had been effected during the year 1864-65, and that the only part of these Provinces where salt duty was collected on a local line was the district of Nimar. By the end of the year 1865-66, arrangements were completed for throwing the cordon round Nimar, and so securing order and system along the whole of our Customs line. The whole of the Imperial line from Saugor round the western frontier, then round the southern frontier, thence to the eastern frontier up to the most easterly point of British Sumbulpore,—was in full working order throughout the year, over a length from end to end of 660 miles. The only alteration of duty effected during the year was to raise the rate on Bhooshkee (Berar) salt to 3 rupees (six shillings) a maund, of 82lbs., the rate at which Rajpootana salt has long been taxed. When the salt tariff was first framed the Bhooshkee (an earth salt of Berar) was an ill refined salt, and could not compete with the sea salt of Bombay. But superior methods of refinement having been introduced into Berar, it became necessary to put the Bhooshkee salt on the same level with the Bombay and Rajpootana products.

Total receipts.

62. The total yield of the salt and sugar taxes for the last two years may be thus compared :—

	1864-65.	1865-66.
Imperial Line ... ... Rs.	15,71,569	Rs. 17,92,524
Nimar Line ... ... „	11,043	„ 50,415
Total ... Rs.	15,82,612	Rs. 18,42,939
	(£158,261)	(£184,293)

The cost of maintaining the Salt line amounted to Rs.4,06,710 (£40,671), or 22 per cent. on the gross receipts.

* For these districts rice, being the common food of the people, is taken in place of wheat for both years.

63. It having been found that the three-fold mode of levying opium duty—by an import duty, an excise on growth, and a farm of the retail monopoly—did not work advantageously, either for the revenue or for the opium producer, the sanction of the Supreme Government has been obtained to the abolition of the import duty, and to the levy of a very moderate fee on licenses to grow opium. The monopoly of the retail sale of opium is, and will still be, leased out as heretofore. The object of the change was—*firstly*, to increase the revenue from the monopoly farm, and *secondly*, to remove restrictions from a kind of crop for which the soils of parts of these Provinces is specially suited. The first object has already been in part gained, by a rise in the price bid for the opium monopoly. A short time will show whether the breadth sown with the poppy is likely to increase.

Opium import duty.

64. It has been stated in my former reports that the excise revenue in some districts of these Provinces is raised by farming the monopoly of manufacture and vend of spirits and drugs, while in other districts it is raised by a still-head duty on all liquor. I have dwelt in those reports on the superiority, on moral considerations, of the latter, or, as it is commonly called, the "Central Distillery" system. The experience of another year has added further testimony to the truth of what was then said. The Gonds and other hill tribes, who used to be notorious drunkards, are no longer addicted to drunkenness, or are much less inclined to excess, though they may not have ceased to drink. Some of the circumstances narrated by officers who come much in contact with these tribes are full of interest. The Gonds are to a certain extent gradually changing their habits; they seem to be settling down into permanent habitations, and sometimes even attaching themselves to the land they cultivate. Formerly, these tribes planted their coarse grains on one hill side this year, and the next year they moved off to another hill or valley, setting up for themselves rude huts, of matting and branches, at each clearing. Now they are in some places, slowly and by degrees, adopting a more regular and settled manner of living; they are beginning to plough and reap like other people; to possess bullocks and to hoard money; and to procure ornaments for their wives. The women of the Gond families seem particularly to appreciate the change which has taken place, and they have been heard to attribute the improvement to the new system of excise. Formerly, their husbands, they say, could get drunk for a penny or twopence, and the liquor shop was brought almost to every man's door; now no man can get drunk under sixpence, and he has often to go some little distance from his home to get liquor at all. So far as can be learnt, neither the Gonds, nor any other large class of the people, were ordinarily in the habit of taking daily a small amount of liquor to stimulate or refresh their bodily powers. Liquor is in no sense to a Gond what beer is to an English labourer. When an ordinary Native drinks at all, he drinks till he becomes intoxicated. To drink without

Excise on Spirits and Drugs.

getting drunk is, in a Gond's estimation, to lose the whole zest of the thing. Under the Central Distillery system, it is less easy to get drunk than it used to be; and thus many classes have ceased to drink at all. Of course, there are times and seasons when a dram is beneficial, and when indeed liquor is still taken; as for instance, the rainy season, or the wood-cutting time, or any other period of arduous and unwonted labour. Such moderate amount of liquor as the people want, and can afford to buy, they still can get. The reports for the year 1865-66 show that, as mentioned in my last report, smuggling and illicit distillation are rare.

Extension of the Central Distillery system.

65. In my last report it was stated that the Central Distillery system was in force in eight out of the eighteen districts which compose these Provinces. In the year under report this system was extended to the Nimar District, and was managed with success. The "Abkaree" (excise) income of that district for 1865-66 was only 17 per cent. below the income of the last year of the old, or monopoly farm system; and it was only 9 per cent. less than the average income of the last few years before the new system was introduced. This result is considered to be highly satisfactory, in a fiscal point of view; for heretofore in other districts the loss of revenue in the first year of the Central Distillery system has been more considerable, though in the second and third years the revenue somewhat recovers itself. From the beginning of the current year, 1866-67, the Central Distillery system has been introduced into Chutteesgurh, a tract where the excise revenue had hitherto been remarkably low. The five districts immediately round Nagpore and the Upper Godavery District are the only parts of these Provinces where the monopoly farm system is still in force, and the introduction of the improved system into those tracts is under consideration.

Yield of the year's excise.

66. The total excise revenue for the year 1865-66 amounted to Rs. 9,27,996 (£92,799,) as compared with Rs. 8,78,797 (£87,879) in the preceding year. The rise under this head of revenue is not so large as had been expected. The smallness of the increase is mainly due to the partial failure of the Mhowa crop, from which the liquor used in these Provinces is chiefly made. The increase was confined to eight districts, in six of which the old, or monopoly farm system, was in force, and in two of which the new system obtained. There was a decrease in nine districts, in six of which the Central Distillery system was in force. The excise administration of the eighteenth, the Nimar District, has already been separately noticed. The decrease of revenue in six districts, where the new system obtained, must not, however, be taken as an evil augury for the eventual success of the system, even in a fiscal point of view, for the circumstances of the year were peculiar. But, as has been previously stated, the

grounds on which the change of system has been advocated here, as well as in other parts of India, have reference to considerations of morality and good government, rather than increase of revenue.

Income Tax.

67. It is not necessary for me to remark in detail on the Income Tax, as this impost was in force for only one quarter of the year under report. The total demand for the quarter was Rs. 70,675 (£7,067), all of which was collected, save a small balance of Rs. 101 (£10).

Stamps.

68. In my last Report I stated that the Stamp revenue for the year 1864-65 was 20 per cent. above the Stamp revenue of the year 1863-64. I have now to report that during the year 1865-66 the revenue under this head has made a further advance of 15 per cent. The gross receipts of Stamp revenue for the year 1865-66 were Rs. 5,73,837 (£57,383), as compared with Rs. 5,03,194 (£50,319) in the year 1864-65. The total number of non-official vendors in these Provinces is now 1,037, and through their agency 78 per cent. of the year's Stamp income was realized. More and more attention is everywhere being paid to the proper enforcement of the Stamp Laws. Prosecutions for breaches of those Laws rose from 257 in the year 1864-65 to 985 in the year 1865-66,—a fact which indicates increased vigilance in enforcing the Law.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

69. The collections under the head of "Miscellaneous revenue" have risen from Rs. 1,75,425 (£17,542) in the year 1864-65 to Rs. 2,08,131 (£20,813) in the year 1865-66. The chief item in this department of revenue is the Pandree, an old Mahratta impost, the assessments to which, as stated in my last Report, have recently been carefully revised. The tax, as it was originally defined, was assessable on all householders who did not make their living by agriculture. The assessments went as low as four annas (sixpence) per head per annum. The revision of assessment has been conducted in such a manner as to exclude from liability to the tax all householders who could not afford to pay eight annas (one shilling) per annum, and also with a view to secure something approaching to equality of incidence. The results of the revision have been, to grant immunity from the tax to about 35,000 persons who formerly paid less than eight annas (one shilling) apiece per annum; but to raise the totals of the assessment from Rs. 1,61,782 (£16,178) to Rs. 2,44,933 (£24,493). The number of persons on whom this sum is assessed is 186,385; thus making an average demand of Rs. 1-5-0 (two shillings and sevenpence) per tax payer. Formerly, the number of persons assessed to Pandree was 208,189, and the average rate of incidence on each person was Rs. 0-12-6 (one shilling and sixpence). The effects of the re-assessments are not fully visible in the collections of the year 1865-66; but the full revised demand will be realizable in the year 1866-67.

SECTION III.—TOTAL REVENUES.

70. The actual Imperial revenues for the year 1865-66 may be compared with those for the year 1864-65, thus :—

		1865-66.		1864-65.
Land revenue	Rs.	54,53,296	Rs.	54,90,427
Customs (Salt, &c.)	„	18,42,939	„	16,95,309
Excise on Spirits	„	9,44,804	„	8,77,855
Income Tax	„	71,582	„	2,26,145
Stamps	„	5,73,837	„	5,03,194
Forests	„	2,02,644	„	92,469
Miscellaneous	„	2,26,125	„	1,75,584
Total ...	Rs.	93,15,227	Rs.	90,60,983
		(£931,522)		(£906,098)

Totol revenue of the year.

It will be seen that the revenue of these Provinces continues to increase. The only head of revenue under which appreciable decrease is shown is Income Tax, regarding which no remark is needed. The slight difference in land revenue arose, as already explained, from a casual misapprehension, whereby the whole demand of the year 1865-66 was not collected within the year. The error was detected, and the full demand has since been made up. The sums so collected will go to swell the revenues of the year 1866-67. Notwithstanding the cessation of the Income Tax, the revenues of the year 1865-66 were 2¼ lakhs (£22,500) above the revenues of 1864-65. The ratio by which the revenue increased during the year was thus about 2½ per cent. If the Income Tax be excluded from the comparison, then the actual increase would stand at 3¾ lakhs, or 4 per cent.

CHAPTER III.

EDUCATION.

71. Before describing the progress of Education, with reference to the several classes of schools, I will briefly state the general results of the year.

Increase of schools and of expenditure

72. Schools of all classes have increased from 1,185, at which number they stood at the close of 1864-65, to 1,441 in the year under report, 1865-66. The number of pupils attending these schools, on comparison of the same two years, increased from 34,400 to 46,738. The expenditure on education has similarly risen from Rs. 2,81,553 (£28,155) to Rs. 3,38,067 (£33,806); of which latter amount Rs. 2,02,604 (£20,260), or 60 per cent., were paid from the local two per cent. Educational Cess Fund and private contributions, and the remainder from Imperial revenues. The total expenditure of the year was thus distributed :—

Direction	3·30 per cent.
Inspection	14·20 „
Instruction	82·50 „

Cost per annum of each pupil.

73. The cost per annum of the education of each pupil was Rs. 7-3-9 (fourteen shillings and fivepence), including some extraordinary expenditure on account of buildings; excluding that amount, it was Rs. 6-15-5 (about fourteen shillings). The Central and Branch Book Depôts sold 66,435 school books, realizing Rs. 16,578 (£1,657).

74. Following the order observed in my previous reports, I will now advert briefly to the different classes of schools, namely :—

1.—Zillah (or District head-quarter) Schools.
2.—Normal Schools.
3.—Grant-in-aid, or Aided Schools.
4.—Town Schools.
5.—Village Schools.
6.—Female Schools.
7.—Indigenous Schools.
8.—Zemindaree Schools.

Zillah Schools.

75. The number of Zillah schools remains the same as last year, viz. 10; but there was an increase of ten per cent. in the number of pupils on the rolls. The Saugor school, the largest institution of this class, is the only one

in these Provinces from which scholars have passed the Calcutta University Entrance Examination. At the examination in December last, one student passed the first examination in Arts, and three the Matriculation examination. This is so far well: but the good as yet obtained from this Institution is far from commensurate with the cost, labor, and learning devoted to it. Many pupils in this and the other Zillah schools are making progress towards the University standard. The average cost for each boy during the year stood at Rs. 23½ (£2 7*s.* 0*d.*), against Rs. 25½ (£2 11*s.* 0*d.*) in the previous year. This diminution in cost, despite the general rise of prices, shows some economy in management. The total of fees collected was Rs. 1,871 (£187), while in the year previous it was only Rs. 864 (£86).

Normal Schools.

76. The number of Normal schools has been increased from 4 to 6; one having been opened at Khundwa in Nimar late in the year; and one, a female Normal school, at Nagpore in September 1865. The attendance of pupils had risen from 117 to 138. There were 140 certificated Masters passed through these schools during the year, against 113 in the year previous. In the Nagpore Normal School especially, the teaching staff having been much improved, the style of instruction has been proportionately raised. The female Normal school at Nagpore has 20 females now attending it, all of respectable character, and apparently anxious to fit themselves for employment as teachers. The average cost of each student was Rs. 71 (£7 2*s.* 0*d.*) for the year under report.

Aided Schools.

77. Of Aided schools of the higher class there are seventeen existing, as described in my last Report. The attendance increased during the year to 1,229, from 1,100 in the year previous. The cost to Government of all these Institutions was Rs. 11,203 (£1,120) during the year, while the expenditure from other and private sources was Rs. 15,677 (£1,567).

Town Schools.

78. The Town schools are 96, as compared with 93 in the previous year. The number of pupils rose from 7,356 to 8,494. The fee collections rose from Rs. 2,317 (£231) to Rs. 2,768 (£276), and the average cost of instruction per boy from Rs. 4-11-2 (nine shillings and fourpence) to Rs. 5-4-10 (ten shillings and sevenpence). The languages read are.—

English by	92	pupils.
Marathi by	3,281	„
Urdu by	1,542	„
Hindi by	3,515	„
Oorya by	327	„
Teloogoo by	74	„
Sanscrit by	12	„

I last year stated that the standard of attainments in these schools was rising; in this year again, a steady, though perhaps slow, increase has

been going on in the number of boys in the higher classes. Some of these Town schools are noticed by the Director of Public Instruction as having been eminently successful during the year. But the others are not advancing so well as they might; the younger boys remain too long in the lower classes, and the elder boys often get rather beyond their Master. The teachers indeed are not equal, either in respect to numbers or qualifications, to the growing requirements of these schools. The necessity for increasing the salaries of the staff of Town School-masters is under consideration.

Village Schools

79. Village schools have increased in number from 486 to 546, with an increase of pupils on the rolls from 15,104 to 18,984. The fee collections amounted to Rs. 3,016 (£301). The cost of instruction for each pupil during the year averaged Rs. 4-6-4 (eight shillings and ninepence). The largest measure of success in schools of this class has been attained in the Northern Circle. In the district of Sumbulpore (of the Eastern Circle) the progress in education has been remarkable, more so indeed than in any other district of these Provinces within the same time. This appears to be owing to the recent pacification of the district, to the co-operation of the Brahmin classes, and to the exertions of the District Officer. In the Southern and Eastern Circles, comprising the districts of the Nagpore territory, there has also been some progress.

The School Cess.

80. The doubling of the School cess, sanctioned during the year previous, has made it possible to increase the salaries of the Masters of Village schools, and the quality of the instruction given is consequently superior to what it was. The number of these schools might be considerably augmented, were qualified teachers available: the want is being gradually supplied from our Normal schools.

Female Schools

81. The desire for female education is gradually expanding. Last year I was able to report an increase from 47 girls' schools with 804 pupils, to 65 schools with 1,294 pupils. This year the number has further increased to 91 schools with 2,361 scholars. All these schools are open to the inspection of the Departmental Officers, and no difficulty has yet been raised in that respect. I have myself seen many of these new institutions, and believe that a fair beginning has been made.

Indigenous Schools

82. Of Vernacular indigenous schools there are three classes, viz.,—*1st*, those receiving a regular monthly grant-in-aid from Government; *2nd*, those receiving grants regulated by results proved at examinations held by Officers of the Educational Department, *3rd*, those receiving gifts in money or books. There were 460 schools aided in one or other of these ways when my last report was written, in the year under report there were

661. The number of scholars on the rolls was 12,772, against 6,227 in the year previous. The pecuniary aid, however, afforded to these schools amounted to only Rs. 428 (£42), while the expenditure from private sources was Rs. 16,585 (£1,658). Thus it is the people themselves who in the main support these schools.

Zemindaree Schools.

83. Zemindaree schools, or schools maintained by Feudatories and Chiefs on their estates, increased from 7 with 263 scholars, to 19 with 1,002 scholars. These schools do not require aid from Government, being supported by comparatively wealthy and powerful persons at the instance of, and with encouragement from, the Civil authorities. The expenditure thus entirely defrayed from private resources amounted to Rs. 2,100 (£210). These institutions are visited by the Educational Officers; and they may be expected to increase further.

Police Schools.

84. Besides the above classes of schools there are Police schools, or schools for the instruction of policemen and their children. There are two Police schools in each district—one attended by adults, of whom there were 529, and the other by boys and girls, of whom there were 347 on the rolls. the latter are not so well attended as they ought to be. The District Superintendents of Police are responsible for the management of these schools; but arrangements are being made for bringing these institutions more directly under the Educational Department.

Expenditure on School buildings.

85. In my last Report I said that the work of building school-houses was nearly complete in most districts. The expenditure on this account during the year is, therefore, somewhat less than that of the year previous. Thus there were expended on school-houses—from Imperial revenues Rs. 8,309 (£830), from Local and Municipal funds Rs. 9,559 (£955), from private subscriptions Rs. 33,241 (£3,324), or an aggregate of Rs. 51,109 (£5,110) during the year under report, against Rs. 89,421 (£8,942) in the previous year.

School Committees.

86. The School Committees of the principal citizens in all the Towns continue, despite many shortcomings, to give some support to the cause of Education.

Central Museum, Nagpore.

87. The Central Museum at Nagpore is now not only filled, but even over-stocked. In it are held the periodical meetings of the Antiquarian and Scientific Society,—an institution still in its infancy.

CHAPTER IV.

PUBLIC WORKS.

88. In this, as in my previous Reports, the various classes of Public Works will be treated of in the following order :—

I.—Military Buildings.
II.—Civil Buildings.
III.—Communications, Roads, and Bridges.
IV.—Railways.
V.—Canals and Irrigation.
VI.—Navigation Works.
VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

Sanatarium at Mohtoor

89. In my last Report I mentioned that the temporary buildings at the Mohtoor Sanatarium were being extensively repaired. These repairs have now been executed, but no detachment of troops has been sent there this season. Whatever doubts exist as to the salubrity of the place during the rainy season and autumn, my opinion as to its advantages during the hot season remains unchanged. Still, I incline to the opinion that, as a permanent Sanatarium for all seasons, the neighbouring station of Chindwara will be found preferable; while use can well be made of the buildings at Mohtoor during the hottest period of the year. This question is now under consideration.

The Cantonments of Kamptee, Jubbulpore, and Saugor.

90. At Kamptee (Nagpore) it was mentioned in my last Report that new quarters for married soldiers were being constructed. These have now advanced towards completion in the best style. The old barracks being faulty, the commencement of new ones on improved modern designs is in contemplation. It was also stated that at Jubbulpore and Saugor the commencement of the new European barracks was awaiting the settlement of various questions. These buildings have now been fairly begun at both stations. At Jubbulpore the barracks for three Companies and a large Regimental Hospital are complete; and at Saugor the foundation and plinths of two upper-storied barracks have been executed, and two are in hand. Arrangements are being made for the construction of buildings for the new Ordnance Depôts and Magazines to be established both at Kamptee and at Jubbulpore.

SECTION II.—CIVIL BUILDINGS.

Construction of the two new Civil Stations.

91. Of the two new Civil Stations under construction, viz. Khundwa (Nimar) and Wurdah, great progress has been made during the year at Wurdah, which has been formally opened for public use, and is now occupied by the Civil Officers and establishments of the district. The Court-houses in various parts of the country, mentioned in my previous Reports as under construction, have now been for the most part completed in substantial style.

Educational and Jail buildings.

92. The progress made with educational buildings and with Jail buildings has been described in the Chapter relating to Education and to Prison Discipline, respectively. The progress made in Church buildings will be mentioned in the Chapter on ecclesiastical affairs.

SECTION III.—COMMUNICATIONS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES.

The three Trunk lines.

93. The three Trunk Lines, namely the Northern Road, the Southern Road, and the Eastern Road, on which our road-making efforts are mainly concentrated, have been fully described in my previous Reports.

The Northern Road.

94. On the Northern Road the principal works of the year are—the construction of the large bridge (5 arches of 45 feet span each) over the Kutnee north of Jubbulpore; the completion of the Shere and Bijna bridges (each with 5 arches of 50 feet span), and the opening of the Korai Pass—all between Nagpore and Jubbulpore; and the commencement of the new bridge (to consist of 12 arches of 80 feet span each) over the Kunhan River at Kamptee. This difficult and important road, crossing a broad mountain range, and connecting the two principal places of these Provinces, is now after four years of unremitting labour nearly completed; the whole will be open for traffic during the next travelling season.

Eastern and Southern Roads.

95. Full progress, according to the budget provision, has been made with the Eastern and Southern Roads, though the works executed are not of such calibre as to require notice in this Report.

Road from Saugor.

96. In para. 128 of my last Report, the importance of commencing the Road from Saugor to the nearest point of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was adverted to. Such commencement has now been ordered, and will be carried out after the present monsoons shall have ceased.

97. The old Trunk Road from Khundwa (Nimar) towards Indore is greatly in need of repairs, amounting almost to reconstruction. If possible, work will be commenced on it during the next open season. But this must mainly depend on the extent of funds available.

The Trunk Road in Nimar.

98. The materials for masonry works, whether stone, brick, or lime, have proved satisfactory, and have been obtained without difficulty. But the material for the roadways, technically called metalling, has caused endless trouble and disappointment. Here there are few or almost none of those beds of Kunker close to the roadsides, as in Northern India; nor any of that soil so favorable for making bricks for metalling, as in Bengal. In many parts of these Provinces excellent stone is indeed procurable, which *could* be broken up for road-metal; and in some places excellent gravel for binding is found. But such materials are seldom sufficiently near at hand to be made use of for our roads at a reasonable cost. The only stuff, which can always be easily met with, consists of the inferior sorts of trap, and the like, which become pulverized on exposure to sun and rain. Again, the earth-work when thrown up proves in many places to be most difficult of consolidation. The thickest layers of metal sometimes after heavy rain sink into, and become imbedded, or even buried in the soft, pulpy, yielding masses of earth. By degrees, layer being added on layer, a durable *substratum* is formed, over which fresh metalling when laid down will answer well; and thus in time, perhaps our metalled roadways may become good. Meanwhile, the delays occasioned in this way are such as can hardly be described in a Report like this.

Material for roadway and masonry.

99. The road works under the various Local Committees are of a detailed and miscellaneous character; and though the aggregate is large, it is difficult to select for mention any particular work of magnitude. Their operations have been scattered over a very broad area, and their expenditure has been considerable.

The Road works under Local Committees.

100. The expenditure on roads, exclusive of all establishments, during the year, amounts to Rs. 6,49,722 (£64,972) in the Public Works Department; and by the Local Committees to Rs. 1,32,263 (£13,226),—in all to Rs. 7,81,985 (£78,198).

Expenditure on Roads.

SECTION IV.—RAILWAYS.

101. Following the same order as that observed in my previous Reports, I will advert very briefly to,—1*st*, the line from Bombay to Jubbulpore; 2*nd*, the branch to Nagpore; and 3*rd*, the line from Jubbulpore to Allahabad.

Three Lines of Railway.

It will be remembered that the two first belong to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company; the third to the East India Railway Company.

The Railway from Bombay to Jubbulpore.

102. The line from Bombay to Jubbulpore was, at the period of my last Report, opened from Bombay as far as Boorhanpore, a town on the extreme western frontier of these Provinces. It is now nearly ready to be opened to Khundwa, the head-quarters of the Nimar district, some forty-three miles further on. Beyond that there has been fair progress up to the end of the section contracted for by Messrs. Hood, Winton, and Mill, that is, to within about 120 miles of Jubbulpore. The great work in this Sub-division is the viaduct over the Towa River, which, after many delays and difficulties, will be finished in about one year. Thus far the line may be completed during 1867, as mentioned in my previous Reports. But for the remaining distance into Jubbulpore the prospects have now become uncertain. The Railway Company, having cancelled arrangements with the Contractors, Messrs. Norris and Weller, who had become unable to carry on the work, were obliged to take upon themselves the construction of this part of the line. Such circumstances must always involve delay; and though efforts are being, and doubtless will be made by the Company's servants, still there are four large viaducts to be finished, namely those of the Nerbudda, the Shere, the Sukkur, and the Doddye. The last of these will not be completed before the end of 1867 or middle of 1868. It is just possible that the expectation of opening the Railway to Jubbulpore sometime during 1868 may be fulfilled.

Branch line to Nagpore.

103. The branch to Nagpore is about to be opened for general traffic as far as the Wurdah River, on the frontier of these Provinces. Further, after many unforeseen delays in fixing the girders of the large viaduct over that river, the line has been completed some distance onwards, till now, the Contractors' Engine is running to a point within thirty miles of Nagpore. It appears that the Railway may be opened for traffic to Nagpore by the end of 1866 or the beginning of 1867.

104. Before quiting this topic I may be permitted to testify to the great improvement in the conduct of affairs effected by the Agent, Captain Sherard Osborne, R. N., C.B.,—an improvement perceptible to all who may have occasion to observe the progress of this Railway.

Railway from Allahabad.

105. It is still anticipated that the line from Allahabad will be completed to Jubbulpore by the beginning of 1867. Good progress has been made in many respects; still, two large viaducts remain to be completed. And there is much building yet to be done at the terminal Station.

SECTION V.—CANALS AND IRRIGATION.

Projects completed.

106. Under this head no actual work has been commenced; but the following projects have been completed, *viz.* :—

that for the country near Seonee,
" " " " " Sawnair (Nagpore District).
" " " " " Kuttungee (at foot of the Sautpoora Hills).

The Bhore river irrigation scheme has been commenced upon.

The Seonee project.

107. The Seonee project has been submitted for orders (cost 1¾ lakhs (£17,500); estimated profit 4 per cent.); but the Government of India have hesitated to accord sanction to it, unless the estimated income from the undertaking shall be found to be larger than what is now anticipated.

The Sawnair project.

108. The Sawnair project is still in the hands of the Executive Engineer; but the estimate and plans are soon expected. The works are somewhat extensive, running for a length of 20 miles, to irrigate some 180 square miles of fine country between the Kunhan and Kolar rivers.

The Kuttungee project.

109. The Kuttungee project is also still with the Executive Engineer, and, like the above, is soon promised. This work lies between the Wyne Gunga and Chunnee rivers, and is estimated to afford irrigation for about 200 square miles.

The Bhore river scheme.

110. The Bhore river scheme has been three-fourths surveyed, and the work is being plotted. The irrigation channels will spread over 50 square miles of country round the new Civil Station of the Wurdah District.

SECTION VI.—NAVIGATION WORKS.

Progress of works on the Godavery.

111. Revised plans and estimates for the works proposed for the 1st and 2nd barriers on the Godavery have been submitted to the Government of India, and during the year operations on the 1st barrier only have been proceeded with. The Anicut, or great dam, may be considered as three-fourths finished; the sluice wall has been finished; the head-lock nearly completed; the canal and the flood embankment have been two-thirds finished; the upper tail-lock is in progress.

Mission of Colonels Anderson and Fife.

112. During February and March last, Lieut.-Colonels Anderson and Fife (Officers of special experience in Southern and Western India) were deputed to make a careful inspection of the whole Godavery Navigation scheme, and are to submit a report on the project in general. Pending the receipt of their report, and the decision of such points as may be involved therein, works at the 2nd and 3rd barriers have not been commenced.

Steamers and boats.

113. The steamers and boats for the transport and supply departments have been maintained, and the operations of this branch of the work have proved satisfactory and complete, as far as the requirements of the season demanded.

Sanction of works.

114. The Secretary of State's despatch, dated 8th February 1866, on the general matter of the navigation of the Godavery, has been received, sanctioning the prosecution of the works originally proposed for the 3rd barrier, with a view of affording navigation up to Chanda on the Wurdah, or even up to Hinghunghat in the cotton districts. The report by Colonels Anderson and Fife, above referred to, only is awaited before taking steps to begin work vigorously.

115. Though the work executed during the year is not large, yet the project generally has been much developed and advanced towards final determination.

SECTION VII.—MISCELLANEOUS AND MUNICIPAL WORKS.

Local works and improvements.

116. The works under this category consist of public improvements carried out by the various Local Committees. In my previous Reports I have described generally the character of these works, and specified the principal among them. These operations have great local interest; and they conduce, not only to sanitary and material improvement, but also to the elevation of the tastes and ideas of the people. But any description that could now be given of them would be unavoidably more or less a repetition of what has been said on former occasions. It must suffice to note that the works previously noticed, scattered as they are among literally a hundred places all over these Provinces, have been prosecuted during the year, and many other fresh works of the same kind have been undertaken. The amount expended from municipal and local funds during the year stands at Rs. 2,52,502, (£25,250). The larger cities, such as Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and Saugor, have been thus operated upon, till their external aspect has become much changed. The smaller towns in all the districts have been brought under municipal management. As already reported, upwards of ninety Municipalities have thus been formed. It is remarkable that wherever these works have been carried out the improvement of private dwellings has followed. If a street or market-place be opened out by authority, the neighbouring householders are seldom, or never, slow in erecting either new frontages to old houses, or else new houses altogether. Attention is, of course, paid more and more to drainage, to sewage, to latrines, and to all matters pertaining to the public health.

SECTION VIII.—TOTAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

117. The following is an abstract of the expenditure on Public Works during the past two years :—

		Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Navigation Works.	Miscellaneous Public Improvements	Tools and Plant.	Establishment	Profit and Loss.	Advances for Stock	Total Expenditure.	Local Works.	Grand Total Expenditure.
1864-65.	From the year's Budget Grant. Rs.	2,76,424	2,82,658	10,33,304	4,08,207	..	90,608	5,08,000	739	68,697	26,68,631	6,46,528	33,15,159
	£.	27,642	28,266	103,330	40,821	..	9,061	50,800	73	6,870	266,863	64,653	331,516
1865-66.	From the year's Budget Grant. Rs.	4,17,378	6,93,696	8,13,972	4,74,908	14,401	40,777	6,20,264	59,515	..	31,94,911	8,24,105	39,59,016
	£.	41,738	69,370	81,397	47,491	1,440	4,078	62,026	5,951	..	318,491	82,410	395,901

CHAPTER V

POST OFFICE.

Provincial head of Postal Department.

118. During the year the Imperial Postal Department in these Provinces was, pursuant to repeated recommendations as explained in former Reports, placed under the charge of a Chief Inspector of Post Offices; and a more efficient and centralized administration may now be looked for.

The through Mail from Bombay to Calcutta.

119. The through Mail from Bombay to Calcutta now passes through Nagpore. In a few days it will be brought by the Railway from Bombay up to a point within 30 miles from Nagpore, whence it will be conveyed on pack-horses and Mail cart, according to the state of the road, to Nagpore, and thence to Jubbulpore and Mirzapore, where it catches the rail to Calcutta. The mail service from Nagpore to Mirzapore is under a special European Superintendent. The arrangements along the line are reported to be efficient. And during the last six months the average speed attained by the mails on this important line has increased fifty per cent.

Rural Post Offices.

120. The rural postal service recently sanctioned by the Government of India, at a cost of Rs. 40,674 (£4,067) per annum, has also been placed under the general supervision of the Chief Inspector. The cost of this service is defrayed in part by a special cess paid by the landholders, which yields Rs. 28,000 (£2,800) per annum. These interior postal lines, branching minutely throughout the interior of the country, are in fair order. There are now no less than 176 Post Offices of various grades in these Provinces, and they are coming into general use with the people. The number of letters carried by these rural posts in the year 1865-66 was 632,803, as compared with 252,000 in the year 1864-65. The income of the year under report from prepaid, not prepaid, and registered letters, was Rs. 13,662 (£1,366).

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

121. Within the year under report no new line of Telegraph was constructed in these Provinces. But it has been decided to open an Office at the important cotton mart of Hingunghat in the Wurdah District.

Telegraphic communication.

122. Telegraphic communication in these Provinces during the year has not been free from occasional interruptions, caused by the falling of the wooden posts on which a great portion of the line is still supported. But the Director General has given special attention to the matter. Progress is being made in the substitution of Hamilton's standards along the whole line. When the renewal of all the Telegraph lines shall be complete, it may be hoped that constant care will make interruptions of communication more rare than they are now. The distance over which Hamilton's standards have been planted during the year amounts to 84 miles.

CHAPTER VII.

FINANCIAL.

123. A Financial Statement prepared by the Deputy Accountant General will be found appended to this Report. As explained in a previous year, the financial returns are prepared somewhat later than, and therefore are slightly in excess of, the revenue returns which were given in preceding chapters of this Report. The form of the financial statement given this year differs in some respects from the form followed in former Reports. The Deputy Accountant General has, however, shown this year the "receipts" and "charges" under each head of Imperial and Local revenue. This form of Statement, if followed in future years, will show exactly how far the Imperial Revenue and the Local Funds, respectively, continue to increase.

Revenue receipts of the year 1864-65.

124. From a perusal of the statement it will be seen that the total receipts under the head of "Imperial Revenue" are put down at Rs. 99,00,655 (£990,065). In the year 1864-65 the amount stood at Rs. 93,80,710 (£938,071). The revenue receipts of the year 1865-66 thus exceed those of the preceding year by Rs. 5,19,945 (£51,994). And this increase, of nearly six per cent., has been attained in a year when one item of revenue, viz. Income Tax, has entirely disappeared.

125. The several headings of revenue, having been fully noticed in the preceding Chapter II., require no further remark here.

Local Fund receipts.

126. There has been a considerable increase in the income from the Local Funds. The total receipts for the year 1865-66 are set down at Rs. 17,07,613 (£170,761). In the preceding year the amount was Rs. 13,78,512 (£137,851). The increase, amounting to 24 per cent., has chiefly accrued under the heads of "Municipal Fund," "School Fund," "Ferry Fund," and "Nuzzool Fund."

Total public income.

127. Taking the Revenue and the Local Fund receipts together, the total public income of the year 1865-66 was Rs. 1,16,39,694 (£1,163,969). But the sum of Rs. 1,26,778 (£12,677), as explained in a note to the appended financial statement, is shown under both Revenue and Local Fund receipts. A deduction on this account having been made, the total income of the year 1865-66 is Rs. 1,15,12,916 (£1,151,291), as compared with Rs. 1,07,59,222 (£1,075,922). The ratio of increase over last year's income is thus 8 per cent.

Municipal taxation.

128. Much attention has been directed during the year to regulating the Municipal funds of our many cities and towns, and to adapting the mode of levying local taxes to the requirements and circumstances of each town. In most places the octroi duty has been found to work well, provided the rates of duty are very moderate, and provided that when any trade or industry suffers from a particular rate of duty steps are at once taken to modify such rate. There are, however, towns, which, being merely *entrepôts*, or places where traffic rests in transit, would be injured by any octroi duties whatever. Care has been taken to substitute house-tax in such towns for octroi duty.

Expenditure of the year 1865-66.

129. The total expenditure for the year 1865-66 (inclusive of all Civil and Political charges, but exclusive of charges for Army and Public Works) is shown at Rs. 64,93,017 (£649,301). It stood at Rs. 55,93,421 (£559,342) in the preceding year. This increase is spread over most heads of charge. Very much of it is unusual, and will not recur. I proceed to notice in detail the several heads.

Analysis of increase of expenditure.

130. Under the head of "Refunds" 3½ lakhs (£35,000) were disbursed in refunding land revenue collected between the years 1854 and 1863. The refunds were made in conformity with certain promises given to the people in the year 1854. Those pledges having been now redeemed in full, no further expenditure of this will have to be incurred. Charges under the next head, "Land Revenue," will henceforward decrease year by year as the revised Settlements, which cost much money, are one by one completed. Under the head of "Forest" no decrease, but rather an increase of charge may be expected. The yearly rise in the Forest revenue will, however, amply compensate for the small additional expense. The same consideration applies to the annually increasing charges under the heads of "Customs (Salt)" and "Stamps." Under the heads of "Public Departments" and "Law and Justice" the expenditure appears to be at present stationary. But some increase under these heads may be found unavoidable. The enhanced charge for Police is due chiefly to the including in the accounts of charges on account of Municipal Police. Against this increase there is a *per contra* increase of receipt under the head of Police, on account of payments made by Municipalities which support their own Police. This, therefore, is nominal, being merely a transfer from one heading to another. Part of the enhanced charge for "Police" is, however, due to the extra pay granted to constables to compensate for the increasing dearness of provisions. There is an increase of charge under the head of "Education." This increase may, it is hoped, progress slightly year by year. The charges for these Provinces under the heads of "Ecclesiastical" and "Medical," amounting to 1½ lakhs (£15,000), are shown in the appended statement, though they have not found a place in the financial statements of previous years. There is also an increase of about a

lakh and a half (£15,000) under the head of "Allowances under Treaties and Engagements." This increase, though paid out of the year's revenue, is fairly chargeable to capital account; inasmuch as it represents the amount expended in capitalizing and paying off in lump sums pensions which had hitherto been paid annually.

Main heads of increased expenditure.

131. From the analysis in the foregoing paragraph, it will be seen that the great increase of expenditure which this year's accounts show, viz. 9 lakhs (£90,000), are divisible into four main heads, as follows :—

(1). 8½ lakhs (£35,000), due to an incidental and extraordinary outlay which will never recur.

(2). 2¼ lakhs (£22,500), due to the appearance in the accounts of charges which were not shown in the financial statements of past years. Against a portion of this charge there is a set-off of 1¼ lakhs (£12,500), which has this year appeared on the "receipt" side of the statement for the first time.

(3). 1¼ lakhs (£12,500), due to the expenditure on capitalizing and paying off in lump sums annual pensions.

(4). 2 lakhs (£20,000), due to the cost of improved machinery for collecting revenue; and the increased cost of progressive administrative departments, such as "Education." Except under the head of "Land Revenue," decrease in charges of this kind cannot be expected.

Local Fund expenditure

132. The expenditure under the several headings of "Local Funds" has been nearly in proportion to the receipts. The only "Funds" under which considerable unexpended balances remained at the end of the year, were the "Ferry," "Municipal," "Putwaree," and "Tulubana" Funds. It is desirable that income under "Funds" like the two former should be spent year by year as it is received; and after all, the unexpended balance to the credit of "Funds" of this kind at the end of the year was only Rs. 1,10,000 (£11,000). Arrangements are being made for expending the "Putwaree" and "Tulubana" (process fee fund) on improving the Revenue and Judicial branches of the administration. The total Local Fund expenditure of the year 1865-66 was Rs. 15,17,826 (£151,782).

Post-audit system.

133. My last Report referred to the introduction of the Post-audit system. I have only now to add that the system has worked well, and has obviated many delays.

Bank of Bengal branches.

134. A second branch of the Bank of Bengal has been opened at Jubbulpore, and has taken charge of the Treasury at that place. The two chief Treasuries of these Provinces, at Nagpore and Jubbulpore, are now entrusted to

branches of the Bank of Bengal. A subordinate branch of the Bank was opened temporarily at the cotton mart of Hingunghat; but its business there did not begin till the cotton season was nearly over. Next season this branch Bank, if it begins work earlier in the year, will be a great convenience to the cotton trade.

Currency note circulation.

135. The circulation of Currency notes has hardly fulfilled its early promise, as described in my last Report, and has now become much limited. Notes for large sums are not issued at all; the bulk of the notes issued in former years had found their way to the head office at Calcutta, and have there been retained. Currency notes have, therefore, not been largely used as Bills of exchange; and they have not, as yet, come much into common acceptance, so as to circulate from hand to hand in the bazaars.

Copper Coin.

136. In former Reports advertence has been made to the demand for copper coin. This demand has now been fully met, and, so far as can be ascertained, the bazaars are fairly supplied with copper money. Special enquiries, recently made from Railway Contractors and other large employers of daily labour, have served to confirm this view.

Cost of Military Forces in the Central Provinces.

137. The Garrison of these Provinces is of about the same strength as it was last year. Its cost is shown to have been Rs. 59,51,444 (£595,144). The increase over last year's Military expenditure, amounting to about 5 lakhs (£50,000), is due, in part, to the rise in the price of provisions, which entails augmented pay to private soldiers in proportion to the range of prices.

Public Works expenditure.

138. The expenditure by the Department of Public Works, inclusive of the cost of the Godavery Navigation Works, amounts to Rs. 31,34,911 (£313,491). This does not include expenditure from Local and Municipal Funds.

Aggregate expenditure of all kinds.

139. Thus the total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the year 1865-66, may be stated in round numbers, as follows :—

	Lakhs of Rupees.	£.
All Civil and Political charges, as per Deputy Accountant General's Statement... ..	65	650,000
On account of the Army	59	590,000
On account of Public Works Department ..	31	310,000
TOTAL ...	155	1,550,000

CHAPTER VIII.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

140. During the year under report a special Chaplain for the Civil station of Seetabuldee (Nagpore) has been appointed; but the want of spiritual aid in most parts of these Provinces is still felt.

The building of Churches.

141. The progress made in Church building during the year may be thus stated. A Church at Raepore has been completed in all respects, one at Bhundara has been completed; one at Chindwara has been advanced towards completion. The superstructure of the Hoshungabad Church was completed to 4 feet, and all materials collected at the site. The furniture for this Church is nearly ready, and has been prepared in a superior style. At Khundwa, in Nimar, the new Church is approaching completion. As stated in previous Reports the new Church at Seetabuldee (Nagpore) is finished. During the year additional decorations, internally and externally, have been supplied, and the structure is now complete in all respects, except the tower and spire. The commencement of a new Church at Jubbulpore has been ordered,—the old Church being too small and inconveniently situated in respect to the troops. The old Court-house at Dumoh has been ordered to be fitted up as a Church. Subscriptions are being raised for new Churches at Nursingpore and at Chanda.

Cemeteries.

142. A new Cemetery is under construction at Asseergurh in Nimar, and one has been recently sanctioned for the Upper Godavery District. The Cemeteries at all the stations in these Provinces are kept in repair and maintained in decent order.

CHAPTER IX.

POLITICAL.

Feudatories.

143. In the last Report it was explained that the Supreme Government had decided, that out of the 115 Chieftains in these Provinces, 14 only were entitled to rank as Feudatories. During the year the Chieftain of Rehracale in the Sumbulpore District has been added to the list of Feudatories, in consideration of the position of his family and the improved administration of his territory. Most of the Chieftains of these Provinces were present at Nagpore in January last, at the Durbar held after the closing of the Exhibition, and opportunity was taken to present the Feudatories with the adoption Sunnuds (Patents) granted them by the Viceroy and Governor General of India. This recognition by the British Government, of their rank and titles, made heritable in their families for ever, either by blood or adoption, with the duties and responsibilities attaching to their high position, was fully explained to the assembled Chiefs. Acknowledgments of fealty (Ikrarnamahs) under their hands and seals were taken from them at the same time.

Phooljhur Chief.

144. The title of "Rajah" has been conferred on the Chief of Phooljhur, who succeeded to the estate, under sanction of the Government of India, in 1863. Though this Chief is only an ordinary subject, yet the title, which was accorded to him, has been held for generations by the lords of Phooljhur.

Soorundur Sah's party.

145. The rebel Soorundur Sah, a pretender to the sovereignty of Sumbulpore, and his chief adherents are still kept as political prisoners in the fortress of Asseergurh under Regulation III. of 1818. The only man of any consequence connected with the Soorundur Sah conspiracy, who was at large when my last Report was written, namely Kowul Singh, has since been apprehended, and now awaits his trial in the Raepore jail.

Dulmeer Khan.

146. Another noted rebel, one Dulmeer Khan, who took a very bad and aggravated part in the troubles at Saugor in 1857, was traced as a practising Vakeel at Benares, and apprehended last year; when he was brought to trial and committed to the Sessions. But on appeal, he was released by the Judicial Commissioner for want of sufficient proof.

147. The final partition of the Chiefship of Thooamool, between the Pat and That Rajahs, was carried out in March last by the Deputy Commissioner of the Sumbulpore District; thus putting an end to the long pending dispute between these two Chiefs.

Thooamool dispute.

148. An Officer from the Central Provinces has been deputed, to meet one appointed by the Government of Madras, to report on the dispute between the Rajah of Kharonde (Kalahundy) on our south-eastern frontier and the Chief of Chinna Kinnedy in the Madras Presidency regarding the boundary of the Mohenjery estate.

Boundary dispute in Kalahundy

149. A final report has been brought out regarding the disputed boundary between the Rajah of Jeypore, of the Madras Presidency, and the Rajah of Bustar in the Central Provinces.

Boundary dispute in Bustar

150. Negotiations for exchanges and other territorial arrangements in Nimar with His Highness the Maharajah Holkar have progressed during the year, and it is expected that the main stream of the Nerbudda will soon be the clear boundary between British and Foreign territory on our north-western frontier. This exchange will give us command of the entire line of trunk road to Indore up to the left bank of the river, and enable us to consolidate our arrangements in Nimar.

Exchanges of territory with Holkar.

151. The territory of Bijeeragogurh, confiscated in 1858 on account of the misdeeds of its rebel Rajah, was transferred in May 1865 to the Central Provinces. It was added to the Jubbulpore District, of which it now forms a distinct Tehseeldaree, or revenue sub-division.

Bijeeragogurh.

CHAPTER X.

MILITARY.

Total Military strength.

152. The strength and complement of the Military Forces in these Provinces remain much the same as heretofore—the total amounting to about 9,500 men of all ranks. But during the year many conclusions have been arrived at, which will place the Military occupation of the country on a formal and regular footing for the future.

Garrison of Nagpore:

153. The final decision of the Government of India was received as to the permanent location of an entire Regiment of Native Infantry at Raepore and of the wing of a Native Infantry Corps at Sumbulpore: the former will be furnished from the Nagpore Force, the latter from Cuttack. It has also been determined to permanently garrison Nagpore, the head quarters of the administration, with the following troops:—

1 Battery of European Artillery.
50 Men of European Infantry.
1 Wing of Native Infantry.

The Artillery and European Infantry will be quartered in barracks on the Hill Fort of Seetabuldee, while the Native Infantry will take up the barrack and lines formerly occupied by the Native Regiment of the old garrison.

at Chanda and Seroncha;

154. Further, the stations of Chanda, and Seroncha on the Godavery, have been declared to be permanent stations for detachments of regular troops.

at Saugor and Jubbulpore.

155. The strength of the Force to be maintained at Saugor and Jubbulpore has been definitely fixed by the Government of India, as given below:—

SAUGOR.
- 1 Field Battery European Artillery.
- 1 Garrison do. do. do.
- 1 Regiment European Infantry.
- 1 Do. Native Infantry.
- 1 Do. Native Cavalry.

JUBBULPORE.
- 1 Battery European Artillery.
- 5 Companies of European Infantry.
- 1 Regiment Native Infantry & Detachment Native Cavalry.

156. Steps are being actively taken for the erection of a new Ordnance Depôt at Kamptee (Nagpore), with a view to removing thither the establishments of the old Arsenal now at Seetabuldee. The abandonment of the old fort in the Saugor City, as a Depôt and Magazine, has been ordered, and a new Magazine for the supply of the Saugor Field Force is to be placed at Jubbulpore.

Arsenals.

157. The inspection of cells for the separate confinement of European soldiers by a non-military Committee, appointed by the Local Administration, has been carried out during the year in the Cantonments of Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and Saugor, where there are European troops stationed.

Military cells inspected.

158. In March last the final sanction of Government was received to the draft rules under Clause 7, Section 19, of Act XX. of 1864,—"For inspecting and controlling houses of ill fame, and for preventing the spread of venereal disease" in Military Cantonments. These rules have accordingly been introduced experimentally into the Cantonments of Jubbulpore and Saugor, where the necessary buildings and establishments for the Lock Hospitals have been provided. The introduction of the rules into the Cantonment of Kamptee still awaits the concurrence of the Government of Madras, but a Lock Hospital has been in existence at that station for some years. Arrangements are now in progress for extending the rules to all villages whose boundaries come within a radius of four miles of the several Military Cantonments.

Lock Hospitals.

159. Cholera encampments have been selected in the neighbourhood of all Cantonments where either European or Native troops are stationed in these Provinces; and the recommendations of the Cholera Commission, in respect of the eligibility of sites for the camps and other cognate matters, have been attended to.

Cholera camps.

160. The Nagpore Volunteer Corps continues at its average strength of about 80 men. On the whole, they are fairly efficient.

Volunteers.

CHAPTER XI.

FORESTS.

System of forest management

161 In my last Report it was mentioned that a set of forest rules for these Provinces had received the sanction of the Supreme Government and had been published. I also described the system of forest administration, whereby certain selected tracts out of the Government forests are set apart as "reserves" and are managed by the Officers of the Forest Department, while the rest of the Government forests are placed under the control of the local Civil authorities. In the "reserves" all rules of conservancy are strictly enforced, and in them no timber can be felled or forest produce gathered without a license from the Forest Officers. In the "unreserved" forests five of the more valuable kinds of timber, viz., Teak, (*tectona grandis*), Sal (*vatica robusta*). Saj (*pentaptera tomentosa*), Sheshum (*dalbergia latifolia*), Beejasal (*pterocarpus marsupium*), are strictly preserved, and no trees of these sorts can be felled without special license. In respect of their other products, viz. firewood, bamboos, grass, lac, gum, &c., the unreserved forests are leased annually to farmers. Timber, however, in these forests cannot be felled in any quantity without special license. All forest produce taken out of the forests under such license has to pay duties, as provided in the forest rules.

Forest revenue of the year.

162. Under the forest system, as sketched in the foregoing paragraph, the sources of revenue are—the sale of timber, licenses to cut timber, leases of unreserved forest, duties on timber or produce brought out of unleased forests. In the year 1864-65 the forest revenue under all these heads amounted to Rs. 89,306 (£8,930); during the year which has just passed the forest revenues amounted to Rs. 2,02,643 (£20,264). Out of this sum over Rs. 1,07,000 (£10,700) was realized from unreserved forests by the local authorities.

Administrative measures.

163. The administrative sub-divisions into which the forests are divided were described in the last Report, and also the relation which the Officers of the Forest Department bore to the Civil authorities. Both the forest and the Civil Officers have now learnt to appreciate fully their duties in respect of forest management.

The two-fold business of conserving valuable timber and developing the forest revenue has everywhere, with a few exceptions, proceeded steadily. Under the head of "Conservancy" the Forest Officers have continued their explorations of forests which were little known, and have collected valuable information regarding the forests of Nimar, Bijeeragogurh, Chanda, and Chutteesgurh. They have brought the business of demarcating "reserves" nearly to completion; they have done something towards keeping the annually recurring fires out of our more valuable forests; they have collected and sold, or stacked for sale, a large quantity of cut timber that was lying ownerless in the forests; they have felled timber sufficient for the various public departments; they have marked trees for next season's felling; and they have prepared a few thousand sleepers from different timbers, with a view to practical experiments as to the durability of each species.

Revenue in "unreserved" forests.

164. In respect of developing forest revenue, the following measures have been carried into effect or commenced. Unreserved forests have been divided into convenient lots, and have been leased to farmers; licenses to fell timber have been granted; arrangements for providing a perpetual supply of firewood and small timber to all the more populous tracts have been taken in hand; teak saplings have been thinned where they grew too close; and a sufficient supply of timber for farm purposes has been made available for the agricultural classes. Seeing that this was the first year in which the Civil Officers in reality assumed the full management of these unreserved forest tracts, it may perhaps be considered that they did well when they ..ised from this an entirely new source of public income,—a revenue of Rs. 1,07,000 (£10,700). The receipts from this source will, it is hoped, continue to increase largely. The first and main difficulty has been overcome, and the people have learnt to regard the unreserved forests as government property, from which the State is resolved to raise a fair proportion of revenue.

Nagpore firewood supply.

165. One measure of the year's forest administration perhaps deserves special mention, because it has an important bearing on the future of the cities of Kamptee and Nagpore and the surrounding plains. The population of this tract have been accustomed to draw their supplies of firewood, grass, small timber, Mhowa flower, &c., from the forests on the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills which bound the plain of Nagpore. The ever-increasing demand for these products was gradually exhausting the forests; and, moreover, the supply was drawn in a manner which, though convenient for the present race of timber dealers, was the worst possible for the future of the forests and of the populations dependent on them. An arrangement has now been made whereby this large forest, about 500 square miles in extent, has been divided into three parts, which are to be worked, so far as timber and firewood are concerned, alternately Two divisions of the forest will

thus be recovering themselves, while the third is supplying all the wants of the people. For the present, the division nearest to Nagpore, which of late years has been much worked, is quite closed to timber and firewood cutters. These arrangements will, if adhered to, secure to the most populous part of these Provinces an unfailing supply of firewood and petty timber at fairly cheap rates.

Dhya cultivation restricted.

166. This chapter may be closed by a brief reference to *Dhya* cultivation. In a previous Report it was explained that the hill tribes had a practice of cutting the trees and burning the brushwood on a hill side, throwing seed on the land so cleared, and then, after reaping the crop, it was their custom to pass on next year to another site and make a fresh clearance. Not only was this practice injurious to forests, inasmuch as it destroyed fine trees, which were burnt where they fell, and were never used as timber, but it also prevented the people who practised it from adopting a settled mode of life or improved methods of husbandry. The evils of the system being so apparent, much attention has been given to its gradual eradication. As has been stated in a foregoing chapter, the improved excise system has indirectly done much towards improving the general status of the Gond and other hill tribes. Direct efforts have also been persistently made to confine *Dhya* cultivation within the narrowest limits possible. Under the forest rules it is illegal to cut a *Dhya* (as the phrase is) in Government forests without license from the Civil authorities; but it has not been found possible to change in a single year the habits of a whole race. Gradually, however, the reform is being effected. In one of our chief forest districts, Baitool, where much attention has been paid to this matter from the beginning, the practice of cutting *Dhyas* has been almost entirely abandoned. In the other forest districts also, something has been accomplished in many places, though the custom lingers on.

CHAPTER XII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE AND COTTON.

Agri-Horticultural Society.

167. There is little to be added to previous descriptions of the Agri-Horticultural Society at Nagpore. The large garden in which its operations are conducted is under a trained European gardener. The propagation of indigenous and foreign fruit trees is carried on, and the supply to district public gardens and to local subscribers is sufficiently liberal. The Society's nurseries are fairly stocked with shrubs and forest trees, some of Himalayan and Australian growth. Many thousands of seedlings have been planted along station roads at Nagpore and elsewhere. The number of the Society's members ranged from 133 to 131, of whom 31 are natives. The finance is in proper order. The income of the year, including the grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 1,200 per annum, was Rs. 9,926 (£992), and the expenditure Rs. 9,061 (£906); leaving a small working balance in hand.

Public gardens.

168. The public gardens at all the district head-quarter stations have been cared for during the year. Some of them are becoming worthy of being places of local resort. The operations carried on in each district in the interests of agriculture have been, for the first time, this year collated for local publication. Such a record, besides being a mere landmark of progress, shows that while one District Officer succeeds in importing a set of improved agricultural implements, or a case of fruit trees direct from England; or another obtains a supply of pedigree wheat for experiment, or raises some samples of a new product, and so on—another has attempted next to nothing, or failed in what he attempted. Thus a healthy spirit of emulation may be gradually evoked.

COTTON.

The cotton sowings.

169. The season 1865-66 was not generally so favorable as the preceding, in respect of this important staple. In the first place, at the period of sowing, when the extent of the cultivation is determined by the demand for cotton, prices in England had fallen, and there was a panic in the Bombay market. Local dealers hesitated to make

advances to the cultivator. The uncertainty operated towards curtailment of the cultivation to the extent of about 15 per cent. all round. In the second place, the rains fell irregularly. In June, it came down in heavy showers immediately after the sowings, and deluged the young plants. Then in July, there was almost a drought when moisture was most needed.

Area under crop.

170. The area under cotton cultivation, compared with the previous season, may be thus shown:—

	1864-65. *Acres.*	1865-66. *Acres.*
In the Nerbudda Valley north of the Sautpoora Range	285,111	229,652
In the Nagpore Country south of the Range.	330,755	289,189
In the Chutteesgurh Country, the Mahanuddy and Godavery Valleys.	74,332	68,557
TOTAL ...	690,198	587,398

The season's out-turn.

171. The average yield of cleaned cotton was, after full examination of the subject, accepted at from 50 to 60lbs. per acre in the Wurdah Valley, and at from 40 to 45lbs. per acre for other parts of the country. At something below these rates the aggregate out-turn of the season would be about 30 million lbs., or about 5½ million lbs. less than last year. Then there were nearly 6 million lbs. imported into the country for re-export with the stamp of our markets. Of the aggregate, there were 29¼ million lbs. actually registered as exports from the Central Provinces, that is, about two million lbs. in excess of the previous year, notwithstanding the fall in prices.

Government experiments with foreign seed.

172. Experiments in the cultivation of New Orleans cotton in the Wurdah District were conducted under the supervision of a European Officer specially selected for the work. The season's experiments were limited to five fields in different parts of the district, of 7 and 10 acres each. On the 47 acres thus sown the yield of seed cotton was 5,549lbs., or 118lbs. per acre, which on being cleaned gives a return of 1,497lbs. cotton, or 32lbs. per acre, and 4,052lbs. of seed. At the current prices of indigenous varieties, the produce would be valued at Rs. 764 for the cotton and Rs. 145 for the seed, or altogether Rs. 909. Now the cost of the experiments, including rent of land, cost of ploughing and sowing, of manuring and weeding, of watching, picking, and ginning, amounted to Rs. 425. A clear profit was thus obtained of 114 per cent. on outlay.

Private experiments.

173. In connection with the experiment under Government supervision, some New Orleans seed was distributed to private landholders in the Wurdah District who were willing to give the seed a trial; but, whether from carelessness or prejudice these experiments failed, except at two

places, which may be briefly described. At Wurnaira the landholder sowed 3 acres, 1¼ roods, with 48lbs. of seed. The produce was 1,984lbs. seed cotton, which on being ginned yielded 536lbs. clean cotton, or 162lbs. per acre. At Bairool, the other place, the landholder sowed 5 acres with 50lbs. of seed, which yielded 652lbs. seed cotton, or 342lbs. clean cotton, equal to 68lbs. per acre. The expenditure per acre in these private fields, if taken at the rate incurred in the fields under direct Government supervision, though it was probably much less, would leave the profit for the Wurnaira field of 811 per cent., and for the Bairool field 283 per cent. on the outlay. The extraordinary result in the Wurnaira field may be partly accounted for by the fact that the experiment was conducted in garden land richly manured. The landholder is an experienced agriculturist, who takes an active interest in the question of cotton supply. The experiments are being continued in the current year; and 671lbs. of seed now acclimatized in the district have been distributed to landholders, who are beginning to have more confidence in the foreign seed. Similar experiments in the Chanda District were conducted with acclimatized New Orleans cotton seed. Fourteen acres were sown with this seed, at 10lbs. of seed per acre, about the middle of July. The plants came up well, and about the middle of September, when flowering began, they were strong, bushy shrubs of from 2½ to 4 feet high. Bols commenced forming early in October. The picking of cotton continued till March 1866, when the average out-turn of seed cotton was ascertained at 274lbs. per acre, and after ginning of 70lbs. per acre. The expenses of all kinds amounted to Rs. 164-8-0. At market rates, the total yield was worth Rs. 436 for the cleaned cotton and Rs. 74 for the seed, or altogether Rs. 510; which gives a profit of Rs. 346 per cent. on the outlay, or Rs. 24-8-0 per acre sown.

Preparation of the staple for export.

174. Improved ginning and pressing machinery has been set up, and the four principal cotton yards in the cotton district have been paved with stone to prevent the cotton becoming soiled during the process of weighing and packing. Cotton warehouses have been built by the dealers at these yards, and generally there is more attention paid to the requirements of the English market than before.

Cotton ginning machinery.

175. At the Nagpore Exhibition (1865) there were set up and worked by a 5-horse power steam engine a self-feeding cotton gin by Messrs. Platt Brothers, and a cotton saw-gin. There were also a few cotton gins worked by hand power. The out-turn of the Platt's gin, just mentioned, was watched by crowds of natives daily with much interest. It was the first time that many of them had ever seen machinery in play under the motive power of steam. To them it was a real novelty to mark the every-day operation of cotton cleaning, familiar as the slow work of the village house-wife, performed with a wonderful rapidity and completeness by a seemingly complicated machine connected with a fire engine,

whose power they could see, but could not understand. A few intelligent natives were appointed to explain the working of the machinery to the visitors—many of them dealers from the cotton-growing districts.)

SECTION II.—ARBORICULTURE.

Arboriculture during the year

176. The operations under this head up to the close of last year, as conducted by the Civil authorities, may be summarized as follows :—

At all eligible spots in the vicinity of district and sub-divisional stations, and along main lines of road, where water is easily obtainable from streams and wells, nurseries have been established under proper supervision. Of these, there are altogether 252, containing at the beginning of the year 144,722 plants and seedlings. From this stock 70,734 trees were planted out during the year, leaving at its close, inclusive of plants newly raised, 127,789. The number of miles of avenue planted out during the year was 110½, there being planted out in previous years and under care 288½ miles. Of groves, at intervals of some few miles along the roads, there were 218 established in previous years and 54 newly formed during the year. Then there are 113 miles of avenues and 194 groves under the care of landholders, who have undertaken the charge on condition they shall enjoy the fruit of the trees. Only in the Hoshungabad District was a money equivalent accepted by the landholders, Rs. 628 having been paid for the care and keep of 25½ miles of avenue and 3 groves. The total expenditure from local funds in all districts on account of the above operations was Rs. 26,186 (£2,618).

Trees on high roads.

177. The tree-planting operations conducted by the Public Works Department may be thus stated. In the 10 established nurseries there were 55,276 plants at the beginning of the year and 36,065 at its close. From these, 21,339 trees were planted out on 13 miles of road and in 14 groves during the year. The expenditure in watching and tending amounted to Rs. 16,379 (£1,637).

178. The total expenditure on arboriculture during the year may be thus given :—

By the Civil Authorities	Rs.	26,186	(£2,618)
By the Public Works Department ..	„	16,379	(„ 1,637)
Total ...	Rs.	42,565	(£4,256).

SECTION III.—WASTE LANDS.

Demarcation of Government waste lands.

179. The area and extent of the waste lands in these Provinces, at the absolute disposal of Government for sale under the waste land sale rules, have been generally described in my previous Reports. A marked advance has been made during the year in the survey and demarcation into plots of these lands in most districts; and the work is steadily progressing, *pari passu*, with the preparation of registers, giving all details of soil, of water supply, of natural products, of climate and rain-fall; of the proximity to marts and high roads; and of other practical matters. These registers are published in the local Gazette, in parts, as fast as they are completed.

Sales in fee simple.

180. The publicity given to these measures have resulted in considerable sales being effected during the year under report. For instance, up to the close of 1864-65 the total area sold was 32,047 acres, whilst in 1865-66 it amounted to 18,939 acres. The aggregate sales thus amount to 50,986 acres; the price realized being Rs. 92,970 (£9,297), or Rs. 1-13-2 (3*s.* 8*d.*) per acre. Excluding one sale in Belaspore, of 16,000 acres, sanctioned under special considerations at 4 annas an acre, on account of the peculiar insalubrity of the neighbourhood, the average price realized on all the sales was Rs. 2-8-8 (5*s.* 1*d.*) per acre, or a little above the maximum upset price in the most cultivated districts in these Provinces. Moreover, since the close of 1865-66 there have been no less than 125,799 acres advertised for auction sale, consequent on applications received. The great majority of the applicants and purchasers are natives of these Provinces.

Clearance leases.

181. It being found that many Natives, who would not purchase under the rules, would yet be desirous of taking leases of small quantites of waste, it was decided to offer further facilities for this object tending to the reclaiming of the waste bit by bit, and thus to the gradual increase of the land revenue. Accordingly during the year rules have been promulgated for the grant of waste lands on clearance leases, on the following terms:—

(1). The leaseholder shall be allowed a rent-free tenure of three years from the date of the grant coming into operation.

(2). The minimum area to be granted shall be 100 acres.

(3). On expiry of the terms of rent-free tenure, the grantee shall pay 2 annas per acre per annum on the whole grant for the next 7 years, and a rent of 4 annas per acre during the next 10 years.

(4). From the beginning of the 21st year the grant shall be liable to assessment, at the same rate and on the same terms as the surrounding lands.

(5). The lessee shall engage, as a condition of his lease, to break up 6 per cent. of the area of his grant every three years, until the cultivated portion reached 30 per cent. on the whole area of the grant; and when the lessee shall have brought 40 per cent. of the area of his grant under cultivation, he shall become proprietor thereof.

(6). In any case where a clearance grant faces, or is bounded by a road, river, or canal, the face of the grant opposite such river, road, or canal shall not be more than one-half the length of the grant perpendicular to such road, river, or canal.

SECTION IV.—MINERAL RESOURCES.

Coal fields in the Pench Valley.

182. The coal fields in the Pench Valley, in the vicinity of the Burkoee seam in the Chindwara District, mentioned in my last Report, have during the year been examined and reported on by Mr. Blandford, of the Geological Survey of India. Including Burkoee, there are eleven different places at which coal has been found, *viz* :—

	Thickness of seam.		*Thickness of good coal in seam.*		*Average angle of dip.*
	ft.	in	ft.	in.	Degrees.
1. At Sirgoree.....above	4	9	above 4	9	5
2. Do.	3	0	3	0	5
3. Chenda.....	15	6	12	3	3
4. Rawunwara.....	7	0	3	4	4
5. Do.	..		above 3	0	10
6. Parapia.....	..		,, 5	0	..
7. Bhandaria.....	15	2	7	3	10
8. Booturia..... ...above	7	8	above 5	10	5
9. Burkoee.....	8	6	about 6	0	3
10. Gogri.....	6	0	5	3	about 5
11. Hurrye.....	not yet sufficiently explored.				

Mr. Blandford believes that many other workable seams still remain undiscovered in this neighbourhood. Those noticed above appear, in most instances, to be favorable to mining enterprize. The angle of dip is everywhere very small, and the quality and thickness of most of the seams are supposed to be constant, at all events over considerable areas. The tests applied establish the character of the coal as equal to that of Raneegunj, with which the East Indian Railway is worked for some

hundreds of miles. The following analysis furnished by Mr. Blandford may prove interesting :—

	Percentage of fuel carbon.	*Percentage of volatile matter.*	*Percentage of ash.*
Chenda seam ..	61·	16·	23·
Burkoee seam..	50·3	26·	23·7
Booturia ..	49·3	26·5	24·2
Sirgoree ..	61·6	28·	10·4
Bhandaria ..	54·4	29·6	16·

in the Towa Valley,

183. The coal fields in the Towa Valley in the Baitool District have also been reported on during the year by the same Officer; and more than one of the seams have been declared to afford hope of yielding a supply of good coal.

in the Nerbudda Valley,

184. The Mohpanee coal mines are being worked by the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company with success. The license granting this Company the right to work the mines for 50 years, from the 1st January 1861, has been executed during the year, and a copy has been placed in the hands of the local revenue authorities for the carrying out of its provisions.

in the Chanda District.

185. A new discovery of coal has been made during the year in the Chanda District; but, so far as the samples have been tested, the coal is not supposed to be of much value. Further experiments may, however, yet bring out a different result.

Iron works.

186. As mentioned in my last Report it was decided to advertise the Burwai iron works in Nimar for sale at an upset price. This was done, but no offers were received. The works will now go with the territory north of the Nerbudda about being transferred to His Highness the Maharajah Holkar, a fair valuation being fixed thereon.

SECTION V.—SURVEY.

Area professionally surveyed.

187. During the year under review there have been four parties of the Revenue Survey and two of the Topographical Survey, in all six parties, at work in these Provinces. A party of the Geological Survey of India has also entered on the survey of the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills. The result of these operations may be abstracted thus :—

	Square miles surveyed.
By Professional Revenue Survey	4,509
By Topographical Survey	3,969
TOTAL ...	8,478

188. In my last Report was stated the amount of work done by the Revenue and Topographical Surveys. Adding to that the area surveyed and mapped during the year under report, the account will stand thus :—

	Square miles surveyed.
By Professional Revenue Survey	30,509
By Topographical Survey	14,969
TOTAL ...	45,478

189. In general terms, it may be said that a portion of the plateau of Chutteesgurh, the Sautpoora hill districts, the Trans-Wyne Gunga country (that is east of the river), and the Nimar District, are the only parts of these Provinces remaining to be surveyed. The survey of these tracts will be soon done, say within two years, except those of the Sautpoora country, which may occupy a longer time.

SECTION VI — FAIRS.

Importance of Fairs.

190. There is little to be added to what has been said in my previous Reports on the subject of Fairs. They continue to present a marked feature in the commercial affairs of the people. But those held heretofore in the Wurdah, Nagpore, and Nimar Districts, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Railway, will probably diminish in importance as the established markets become better able to lay in and maintain large stocks.

Amount of merchandize sold.

191. There were 77 Fairs held in different parts of these Provinces during the year; and from the statistics collected on the spot, it is estimated that the value of property brought for sale was Rs. 90,19,648 (£901,965), of which Rs. 60,73,055 (£607,305) worth were sold. These sales comprised English piece-goods and other European articles worth Rs. 8,08,496 (£80,849); country manufactured articles worth Rs. 26,03,318 (£260,332); horses and ponies Rs. 15,532 (£1,553), cattle and sheep Rs. 11,96,928 (£119,693); other miscellaneous articles Rs. 14,48,781 (£144,878). The aggregate number of persons attending all these Fairs is estimated at 1,667,934.

The Chanda Fair.

192. At one Fair in the Chanda District there were 145,010 persons. The cattle sales alone amounted to about 4½ lakhs of rupees (£45,000). The district is noted for its manufacture of country carts, of which there were sold 7,434, valued at Rs. 3,38,700.

SECTION VII.—TRADE STATISTICS.

Registering of the trade

193. The arrangements for registering the exterior and interior trade of the country remain as described in previous Reports. The plan is now understood by the Officers and establishments, and the returns are gaining in reliability. Even with respect to European merchandize, the only item regarding which there was at first some uncertainty as to value, arrangements have been entered into with traders for obtaining accurate registration, without interfering with the current of traffic. Thus, though error may still exist, on the whole the returns may be said to present an approach to a fair representation of the actual trade between the Central Provinces and the countries beyond, and between the three circles into which the Central Provinces have been geographically divided for the purposes of these statistics.

General aspect of the year's trade

194. As regards the trade of the Central Provinces with other Provinces during the year 1865-66, the returns show on the whole some diminution in the exportation of wheat, which can be well accounted for, by the crops not having been good either in the eastern districts or in the Wurdah Valley. The rice crop was generally fair everywhere; but there was no increase in exportation, the balance which might otherwise have been exported being probably held in reserve. On the other hand, the importation of inferior edible grains increased. Some decrease in the exports, and increase of imports, of articles of food might be expected, in order to adjust the supplies required by the people in consequence of the chequered character of the harvests. There was again an increase in the exportation of cotton, which, if taken in reference to the general state of the market, is somewhat remarkable. It is doubtful whether this shows really a healthy trade, inasmuch as hundreds of tons of cotton from Bundlecund and Berar came here in order to be mixed with our produce, or to go down to Bombay with the Hingunghat brand. The export of country-made cloth increased considerably, which seems to be satisfactory. There was a small increase in the exportation of oilseeds. The imports of European goods, including piece-goods and miscellaneous articles, increased,—partly owing, no doubt, to the Nagpore Exhibition. The importation of salt and of hardware also increased; while of sugar it remained stationary, but apparently firm.

Total exterior trade.

195. The totals of the exterior export and import trade of all kinds, that is the trade of the Central Provinces with other Provinces, may be thus shown :—

	Tons.	*Rs.*	*£.*
Imports	76,518	2,78,64,642	2,786,464
Exports	62,497	3,05,05,817	3,050,581
TOTAL ...	139,015	5,83,70,459	5,837,045

In these aggregates are included stores for Government departments and for the Railways.

196. The above totals may be sub-divided into—

			Tons.	Rs	£.
West ..	Trade with Bombay, Berar, &c.	Imports	39,214	1,61,04,872	1,610,487
		Exports	34,259	2,30,70,792	2,307,079
		Total	73,473	3,91,75,664	3,917,566
North ..	Trade with Northern India and Calcutta.	Imports	25,548	91,51,846	915,184
		Exports	22,108	62,52,042	625,204
		Total	47,656	1,54,03,888	1,540,388
South ..	Trade with Madras and Hyderabad (Deccan)	Imports	2,822	12,00,948	120,095
		Exports	707	2,45,474	24,547
		Total	3,529	14,46,422	144,642
East ..	Trade with East Coast Districts and south-west Bengal	Imports	8,934	14,06,976	140,697
		Exports	5,423	9,37,509	93,751
		Total	14,357	23,44,485	234,448

It may be noted, in respect of the above headings, that our trade with Bombay in salt and European goods and cotton is increasing; and that our trade with Berar in articles of food has received a great impulse during the year,—the Nagpore country sending wheat to Berar, and Berar sending millet in return.

Principal articles of trade.

197. The principal articles entering into the exterior traffic of the year, may be thus shown:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds	Rs.	Maunds	Rs.
Cotton	73,176	21,20,409	447,938	1,30,83,582
Sugar	174,661	20,92,373	95,293	13,69,854
Salt	834,507	44,02,804	61,579	4,19,334
Grain	335,407	9,26,715	671,360	20,18,001
Oilseed	57,447	2,25,602	23,199	78,237
Metals and Hardware	122,802	42,25,914	45,421	23,67,978
English piece-goods.	29,070	34,95,123	2,927	4,66,006
Miscellaneous European goods ..	67,027	25,05,936	12,566	8,55,457
Country cloth ..	10,032	8,20,130	55,052	57,75,485
Silk and silk Cocoons.	972	5,15,091	452	1,00,125
Horses, Cattle, and Sheep	..	18,74,375	..	5,65,381
Cocoanuts ..	78,604	5,54,062	2,441	30,599

198. The trade of the Central Provinces for the past and previous years, after excluding the quantity and value of Railway material and Government stores, may be compared thus :—

		Tons.	Rs.	£
1864-5...	Imports ..	56,874	2,00,63,255	2,006,325
	Exports ..	77,771	2,37,99,264	2,379,926
	Total ..	134,645	4,38,62,519	4,386,251
1865-6...	Imports ..	74,413	2,55,36,250	2,553,625
	Exports ..	61,917	2,96,61,412	2,966,141
	Total ..	136,330	5,51,97,662	5,519,766

Thus there is shown a slight increase in quantity, and a large increase of valuation. The latter may be partly accounted for by the rise of prices.

199. In the aggregate, it will be seen that the exports exceed the imports by about 41¼ lakhs (£412,500), or one-twelfth, leaving that amount to be imported as bullion to balance the trade.

The interior trade of the country.

200. In the interior trade of the country, that is between the several circles into which these Provinces have been sub-divided for the purposes of this registration, there have been decided fluctuations and changes during the year. The supplies of grain, rice, and corn, drawn by Nagpore from the eastern districts (Chutteesgurh) have been mentioned in previous Reports as being so abundant heretofore. But this year they fell off by nearly one-half, owing partly to the deficiencies in the harvests of the last two years, and partly to the fact of Chutteesgurh having exported largely towards Bengal, in consequence of distress in some districts there. To compensate for this, Nagpore has this year drawn its supplies of wheat from the Nerbudda country around Jubbulpore (causing prices to rise there), and its supplies of rice from the plains and vallies at the foot of the Sautpoora Hills.

Section VIII.—Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of Dispensaries.

201. In last year's Report it was shown that the number of Dispensaries existing was 35, including 18 Central and 17 Branch Dispensaries. During the year under report 8 new Branch Dispensaries were established, making the total number 43. This number will be still further increased in the current year, as several townships have subscribed funds for Dispensary buildings, and have guaranteed the proper quota of local expenditure for maintainance thereof. Indeed, in

respect to resources and popular support, these institutions might be indefinitely multiplied. The real obstacle is the scarcity of Native Doctors. Young men are now being sent from Nagpore to Calcutta for medical training.

Dispensary buildings.

202. Attention has been given during the year to the improvement of existing Dispensary buildings. Those on the railway lines have had wards added for European patients, and provision has everywhere been made for separate female wards Improved standard plans, in a tolerably good architectural style, for all future Dispensaries have been sanctioned.

Increase in number of patients.

203. The number of patients treated at all the Dispensaries was 103,983, of whom 79,782 were males and 24,201 females. The progressive increase in the number treated annually during the last few years will be seen from the following figures:—

	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
Male patients	33,695	44,497	59,080	79,782
Female do.	8,410	13,009	16,882	24,201
	42,105	57,506	75,962	103,983

Cost of these institutions

204. With the increase in the number of patients treated and Dispensaries established, the expenditure, compared with the past year, has risen from Rs. 41,958 to Rs. 49,976 Excluding the floating balance in hand and the invested capital at the beginning of the year, the total income of the Dispensaries for 1865 was Rs 49,797, out of which Rs. 33,345, or about 66 per cent., were contributed from Imperial funds.

Vaccination.

205. In my last Report I stated that a Superintendent of Vaccination had been appointed and had entered on his duties. The returns for the year 1865-66 show that 4,757 persons were vaccinated. The operation was successful in 2,666 cases, doubtful in 86, failed in 1,476 cases, and the result was not ascertained in 529. There were 28 cases of re-vaccination, of which 12 only were successful. According to the return furnished, the failures were greatest in the months of September and October, when they were 54 and 81 per cent, respectively, compared with from 25 to 30 per cent. in the other ten months of the year. The above numbers may seem small; but the operations have been confined to certain localities which could really be supervised by a European medical officer. No useful comparison can be instituted with last year's results, as operations in that year did not commence till December 1864. In the interior the people still show, occasionally, reluctance to submit their children to the operation, though effort has been made to explain away prejudice. Doctor Grylls, the Superintendent of Vaccine, is careful not to force the operations on them. This Officer, in his annual Report, brings to notice the alarming

fact that throughout the tracts he has traversed this year, he has seldom found a child over 5 years of age that had not had small-pox. Operations will be persevered in during the current year within the limited area originally contemplated.

Lunatic Asylums.

206. The Lunatic Asylum at Nagpore for male and female patients was in full working order during the year. The admissions were 30: 18 for mania, and 12 for dementia; making, with the number remaining from last year, 60. The average cost per head on all accounts was Rs. 82 in the year. Healthy occupation, in the shape of petty manufactures, has been introduced during the year, and a part of the building has been fitted up as a workshed. The Jubbulpore Lunatic Asylum was opened at the beginning of the year. The admissions were 22; the cost per head per annum amounted to Rs. 40.

Section IX.—Public Health and Sanitary Improvement.

Public health during the year.

207. In my last Report it was stated that 1864-65 was an unhealthy year, inasmuch as epidemic cholera visited every one of our districts in a more or less severe form, while certain endemic fevers in Chutteesgurh and the Wyne Gunga Valley carried off large numbers. But since cholera finally disappeared in September 1865, it has not again shown itself in an epidemic shape; the usual fevers also have been of a milder type than in former years. It is a subject for thankfulness that, during this the second year in which close attention has been paid to sanitary matters, the public health should have been really so good. This can hardly be much more than a happy coincidence; for a year's sanitation, however thorough, could make little impression on the general state of the country. Still the circumstance will have a good effect on the minds of a comparatively ignorant and unreasoning people, and will enlist many influential natives in the cause of public health.

Sanitation in towns.

208. The sanitary Sub-Committees of the Municipalities in our towns have continued their efforts during the year. In almost every town public latrines of some sort have been established; and a regularly paid conservancy establishment is told off to keep the streets clean, to occasionally inspect private enclosures, and to enforce ordinary sanitary laws. In the largest towns there is generally an European official at the head of such establishments.

and in villages.

209. Within the year, too, an actual commencement in village conservancy has been made throughout the whole country. This is really a difficult matter, owing to the vast number of villages, and the equally vast area over which they are spread. A separate conservancy staff could not be organized, and

indeed is not required in each village; but the importance of the subject has been constantly kept before the eyes of landholders and their servants. A copy of the paper of sanitary rules and suggestions, adverted to in my last Report, has been placed in the hands of almost every landholder. English and Native administrative Officers of all grades have made it their business to inspect a number of villages in their districts, with special reference to sanitary arrangements Landholders have been warned of their shortcomings, and reminded of their responsibilities; and, on the whole, diminution has been effected in the insalubrious conditions which surround the rural habitations. This much has been done probably in all the districts. But in some districts the results are already perceptible. In such districts the villages will be found to be almost cleanly,—separate latrines having been established; dunghills having been removed to a distance from the habitations; rubbish, refuse, and offal being carted away; and the lanes and alleys being swept. In some districts, too, the practice of whitewashing and plastering the cottages, which before existed partially, has been rendered almost universal. This process has been carried on inside as well as outside, and must greatly conduce to the health of the inhabitants. Much of this improvement is due to the exertions of the Civil authorities; but even this much could not be effected, without the co-operation of the people themselves.

Supply of pure drinking water.

210. One special object which the "Village Conservancy Rules," above referred to, have in view, is the provision of good drinking water. Some of the rules point out the measures which should be taken to keep pure the sources from which the water for the people to drink is drawn. And, all over the country, the tanks used for drinking purposes are subjected to some sort of sanitary control. But in the eastern, or Chutteesgurh Districts, as stated in my last Report, there are actually no sources from which good wholesome drinking water can be obtained in the hot season. The enquiries consequent on the frequent outburst of sickness, disclosed the abiding existence of such evil in the tank water, as must but too surely sap away the health of the rustic population. For these evils, the supply of well water appeared to be the best, if not the only, practical remedy. Inducements were, therefore, specially held out to landholders who would sink wells in their villages. A concession of sixty acres of culturable land free of revenue for every well thus sunk was offered, and, whenever necessary, money advances from the Treasury, repayable by instalments, were allowed. These efforts had not been without result, for a recent report shows that during the last five months the owners of 557 villages have begun to sink wells for drinking water. By the end of last April, 19 of these wells were wholly, and 161 partially, completed. In 42 cases money advances, as above described, were made. On the roadsides, too, in this quarter some 30 wells have been constructed at the public expense. Much perseverance on the part of the local authorities will be demanded, for in

many parts of Chutteesgurh the ground is not favorable for excavation of wells; and these works, vitally important as they are, will not always be accomplished without difficulty.

Prohibition of certain annual gatherings.

211. In my last Report it was related how measures had been taken to stop certain annual religious gatherings, which, occurring at a critical time of the year, frequently became *foci*, from which epidemic disease was carried far and wide. Our immunity from cholera during the present year, may be partially attributable to those measures. Indeed, the occurrence of cholera among a comparatively small number of travellers to the shrine of Juggernath on the Eastern Coast, who took a circuitous route by Mundla, Sohagpore, and the northern parts of Belaspore, sufficiently indicates what would have happened if the full tide of pilgrims had been allowed to pass through the plains of Chutteesgurh. During the year under report the gathering at Bhudrachellum on the Godavery has been forbidden. And in the eastern districts, it has been ordered that no Fairs shall be held after the 1st of March. The people, so far as can be ascertained, do not seem at all to object to the regulation and control, on sanitary grounds, of the times and seasons when vast religious gatherings can safely be held. Indeed many Natives have been heard to acknowledge the necessity of trying such measures whereby the destruction of human life may be averted.

Collection of vital statistics.

212. The arrangements for the registering deaths and causes of death have not been sufficiently successful to enable me to offer any reliable statistics of this description. The establishment of such registration must be the work of some little time.

Section X.—Improvement in the breed of horned Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.

Bulls for breeding.

213. In the last Report the number of bulls imported from the Hissar Government farm, and from Nellore in the Madras Presidency, was stated. They have now been distributed among the several districts, and herded with the cows of the larger cattle dealers. In some districts, where the breed of cattle is very small, the Deputy Commissioners have also imported some large sized cows. Some years must elapse before any marked result can be looked for.

Sheep breeding.

214. A commencement has been made with the sheep farm at Nagpore, and a few superior rams are shortly expected from Lahore. The sheep farms at Saugor and Dumoh have not made any particular progress during the year; the flocks, too, were attacked by the foot-rot. At Saugor a few

rams from Bikaneer are about to be introduced, and at Dumoh the farm is being shifted to a more healthy locality. At Jubbulpore the cash advances made to the shepherds for the improvement of their farms, were almost all repaid as they became due; but, judging from the still large imports of sheep from Central India, no very sensible result has been attained. The eastern districts of Chutteesgurh continue largely to supply the markets of Nagpore, though sheep breeding is carried on to some extent in the districts of the Nagpore country.

Government Stallions.

215. The ten stallions sanctioned for these Provinces have now all been purchased, and are kept at selected stations. The number of mares served up to the end of last year was about sixty. This number appears to be small even for a beginning.

Section XI.—Elephant Catching.

Capture of wild elephants.

216. During the year under report considerable success has attended the operations of the Khedda (or elephant catching) establishment employed on our eastern frontier. Thirty elephants, of all sizes, have been caught. Four of these have died, leaving twenty-six, of which the value is reckoned at Rs. 39,000 (£3,900). The whole expenditure of the Superintendent of the Khedda and his staff amounted to Rs. 30,000 (£3,000) during the year 1865-66. Some of the elephants being undersized, were sold at the Nagpore Exhibition during December 1865, and fetched on the average Rs. 1,400 (£140). These young animals are much prized by Native gentlemen.

217. These results are encouraging, inasmuch as the difficulties encountered were severe. The Superintendent of the Khedda and his staff were unacquainted with the country. The skilled elephant hunters were natives of Eastern Bengal, and the climate of this part of India did not agree with them Some of the most experienced men were obliged by illness to depart, and it was impossible adequately to supply their places with men on the spot. The Superintendent, Mr. R. D. Nuthall, displayed a degree of courage, endurance, and skill, to which the success (whatever it may be) is mainly due. It is supposed that there are some three hundred elephants in the forests of that quarter, and that about fifty calves are reared annually. If this estimate be correct, there would seem to be yet several years' work for the Khedda establishment.

CHAPTER XIII.

NAGPORE EXHIBITION.

Exhibition at Nagpore.

218. One of the most interesting events of the year to which this Report has reference, was the Nagpore Exhibition of December 1865. With the sanction of the Supreme Government, arrangements for holding at Nagpore an Exhibition of products and manufactures were begun in March 1865. Funds were collected, amounting in all to more than a lakh of rupees (£10,000), out of which Rs 20,000 (£2 000) were given from the public revenues, a site was chosen; and contributions were asked for. The period from April to December was spent in preparing the Exhibition grounds and buildings; in collecting, despatching, and arranging contributions. On the 26th December, the Exhibition was opened in the buildings of the Nagpore terminal station, which had been lent for the purpose by the Railway Contractors, Messrs. Lee, Watson, and Aiton.

Visitors on that occasion.

219. The throng of visitors who came from all parts of the Central Provinces and from adjacent countries was considerable. Nearly all the European Officers connected with this Administration attended with parties of Native visitors from their respective districts. Most of the Chieftains and great landholders of the Central Provinces presented themselves with their trains of followers. There were European visitors also from Calcutta and from Bombay. Some of the Presidency firms which contributed articles to the Exhibition sent representatives. From the neighbouring province of Berar, in the Nizam's dominions, came many European and Native visitors. Altogether, besides the population of Nagpore and its environs, some 30,000 people flocked to see the Exhibition. The majority of these visitors encamped in various open spaces allotted to them near the Exhibition buildings. The many-coloured camps of the Chiefs, with their elephants, their horses, and their paraphernalia of all kinds, formed one of the sights of the occasion.

Arrangement of the Exhibition.

220. A separate Report, with a selection of papers regarding the Exhibition and the products and manufactures displayed there, has been submitted to the Supreme Government. I will only advert here briefly to the arrangement of the contributions and to a few of the most striking articles in each branch. There were five Departments :—

Livestock.

—Machinery and Implements.

III.—Raw Produce.

IV.—Forest and Mineral Products of India.

V.—Manufactures and Fine Arts.

Livestock.

221. The livestock was shown in the open air; the sheep and cattle were in pens; the horses in stables; the poultry in coops; and the elephants were tethered in a separate corner of the Exhibition grounds. The elephants captured* in the Belaspore forests were of good form and breed, and they attracted much attention. The cattle show, though limited in its range, was good in some respects. The finest animals, were the bulls from Neilore, from Mysore, and from Hissar, which had been recently bought by local Committees to cross with the cows of the country. But the chief interest lay in the numerous and varied specimens of Nagpore cattle, the best of which were very little behind the Mysore bulls in excellence. A smaller and more active breed, the Nagpore cattle are for light and rapid draught, and perhaps also for some kinds of plough work, not easily surpassed by any Indian bovine breed. The buffaloes were not remarkable either for number or excellence. The show of sheep was poor. The Central Provinces generally possess extensive pasturages: but the best sheep walks are at long distances from Nagpore. In the territory adjoining the Godavery River, and in some parts of the Nerbudda country, good sheep are to be found, and this branch of livestock might have been better represented on this occasion than it was. The show of horses was indifferent. Altogether there were hardly twenty animals; and only one district, Nursingpore, sent a good country-bred brood mare The poultry show was meagre.

* See Chapter XII, Section XI, of this Report.

On the whole, the show of livestock was somewhat poor, redeemed from mediocrity by a few bright exceptions only. The contributions to this department of the Exhibition all belonged to residents in the Central Provinces. The obstacles in the way of sending livestock from other distant Provinces are obvious.

Machinery and implements.

222. Owing to the enterprise and good-will of a few Bombay and Calcutta firms, the department of machinery and implements was most interesting. It formed a greater attraction to Native visitors than any other branch. The models and some of the machines were shown under sheds constructed for the purpose, while the larger and less perishable articles were in the open space around the main machinery shed. There was a steam-engine constantly at work turning a Platt's cotton gin, and also specimens of the newest style of cotton Presses. The machine for clipping and punching iron; the pumps for forcing up water, worked by European soldiers; the agricultural machinery; the implements for cutting and chopping grass and stalks of all kinds; the machines for winnowing, for threshing, for grinding, for sowing, worked by bullock and hand power,—were watched with careful interest by Natives of all classes, and especially by the landholders and farmer classes. The fine set of agricultural machines sent out by the Secretary of State drew crowds of attentive and in-

telligent visitors. There was a throng of spectators at the ploughing matches with English against Native ploughs It was not possible to exhibit steam ploughs or steam cultivators, as such very bulky things could never be conveyed over the country roads

On the whole, the show of machinery must be regarded as good, when the difficulties in conveyance of such ponderous masses across the hills, ravines, and rivers of Central India to Nagpore, be considered.

Raw produce.

223. In the department of raw produce, the collection of samples of rice, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses was very varied and extensive. There were more than two hundred and fifty varieties of rice, and some really excellent samples of wheat. The show of tubers and of sugarcanes was not good. There were two good assortments of the many Indian products used for European or Native materia medica. The samples of cotton were, some of them, excellent. The best of all was the acclimatized New Orleans, grown in Berar by the Reverend J. Davidson. Of the indigenous cottons, those from Hingunghat were the best. Some of those which came from Dharwar were of excellent quality. There were a few interesting specimens of Sea island, Egyptian, and China cotton. The "tussah" silk was good; the wild silkworm cocoons from which this silk is made are largely produced in the eastern forests, especially in those of the Sumbulpore territory. The "tussah" was exhibited in cocoons, in reeled silk, in spun silk, and in woven pieces. A great and varied assortment of fibres made from wild plants, creepers, and grasses, were shown. Another valuable product of the forest was illustrated by the stick lacs and shell lacs received from several places to the east, and especially from the factory of Messrs. Warwick, at Jubbulpore.

Forest and mineral products.

224 In the hall devoted to articles coming under the category of "Forest and Mineral products," the Government Forest Department set up a trophy, consisting of specimens of the useful woods and timbers of these Provinces. The most prized species were Teak (*tectona grandis*), Ebony (*diospuros malanoxylon*), Satinwood (*chloroxylon suietenia*), Saj (*pentaptera tomentosa*), Sal (*vatica*, or *shorea robusta*), Toon, or Indian mahogany (*cedrela toona*). Also the tapering bamboos, locally called "Kuttung," or thorny, 90 feet in height, sent from Bhundara, were characteristic of the forests which clothe the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills. Of the minerals exhibited, the most important was coal. From six districts situated in different parts of these Provinces, specimens of coal were sent. Only two of these fields, the Mohpanee coal seam near the Nerbudda, and the Chindwara coal seam in the Pench Valley, 80 miles from Nagpore, have yet been regularly worked. Both these coals have answered well in locomotive steam engines. The other coals have not yet been worked or tried. Out of the eighteen districts which compose the Central Provinces, fifteen were able to send samples of iron-ore from their own rocks and hills. In one district, Chanda, iron was sent from the same valley, and indeed from some

tracts which also supplied coal. All these iron-ores have been worked for generations after the Native method. At one place only, Burwai, in the Nimar District, has iron-ore been smelted after the most approved European methods. The building stones displayed on this occasion comprised blue and red granites; black, white, and veined marbles; blue and black basalt; oolites; red, yellow, streaked, and white sandstones; flagstones and slabs of sandstone, limestones of many kinds. Among other useful mineral products were talc, manganese, ochres, and coloured earths. On the whole, the show in this department, which consisted entirely of products of these Provinces, was complete in its way, and served to indicate the natural resources of the country.

Arts and Manufactures.

225. The main building of the Exhibition was devoted to the many hundreds, or even thousands, of specimens of "Arts and Manufactures," which were sent from all parts of India. The building, being constructed for an engine-shed, in itself was unsightly; but its interior was suitably decorated. In the centre of the hall was a sort of pyramid of crystal and glassware, the top of which was lost in the flags and drapery that hung down from the roof. At the entrance end of the hall was a trophy of cotton threads and cloth, produced by some of the chief cotton factories of Bombay. At the other end of the hall, in an annexe specially fitted for picture hanging, were the oil paintings and portraits exhibited by Mr. Theodore Jansen. Down the sides and centre were tables, stands, stalls, and screens, and trophies, on which were ranged the various articles pertaining to the different classes into which this department was divided. Of the contributions from other Provinces and countries, the silver work (country made) and jewelry from Calcutta and Bombay; the plastic pottery from Lucknow; the carved wood work from Bombay and from Madras; the inlaid and carved ivory work from Vizagapatam and Bombay, and the ivory work from Berhampore; the broidered stuff of Benares and Delhi; the muslins of Madras; and the machinery made cotton threads and fabrics from the factories at Bombay, —were particularly worthy of note. Among the manufactures of the Central Provinces, were the cotton and silk fabrics of the Nagpore country; the embroideries of Boorhanpore in Nimar; the carvings in stone and wood from Chanda and Nagpore; the armoury, cutlery, and metal work from Nagpore; the ropes and the carpets of the Jubbulpore School of Industry; and the twines and leather work from the regimental workshops. As might be expected, however, the manufactures of the Central Provinces were seen to be much behind those of many parts of India.

Effects of the Exhibition.

226. Before closing this section it may be well to offer a few remarks as to the effects which the Nagpore Exhibition may be expected to have. The many thousands of Native visitors went away pleased, no doubt, with what they had seen; and even that is something for a rude population little accustomed to witness any public spectacles. But it may be hoped

that pleasure and wonder were not the only impression left on their minds. A large portion of the articles exhibited came from different parts of the Central Provinces. Many of the exhibitors attended themselves, and were able to compare what they sent with similar articles presented by their neighbours of other districts, or by persons from other parts of India. In this way, the cutlers, jewellers, braziers, stone-carvers, potters, handloom-weavers, and embroiderers of the Central Provinces, must all have learnt something new regarding their own particular callings. The landholders and others engaged in agriculture saw, by this opportunity, the best products of other localities, and many new fashions of agriculture. And the mass of spectators of many tribes, languages, and professions, who had previously led a secluded and unenlightened existence, who had never enjoyed the chance of seeing anything, save the wildness of nature, or the most rudimentary works of man, must have been improved, even by merely seeing for the first time the effects of mechanical power and the products of refined art. In this way alone, such an Exhibition must have indirectly furthered the cause of popular education. On the European spectators, too, the Exhibition will not have been without its effect. District Officers who collected contributions for the several departments of the Exhibition were compelled to examine carefully the resources of their districts, and to learn much of which they were previously ignorant; and thus they may be moved to stir up their own people for improvement.

227. In respect to the best mode of giving permanence to the effects of the Exhibition, I will add an extract from the Exhibition Report:—

"Lastly, it may be said that no single Exhibition, however "successful, can leave an abiding mark, unless it be followed up "by other Exhibitions at suitable intervals. If there were merely "one Exhibition never repeated, it would be like a flash of light, "beaming around for a moment, but leaving all as dark as before. "The Natives cannot understand a new thing, unless it be held up "before their eyes with something of continuous perseverance. The "first time they may wonder; the second time they may understand; "the third time they may observe with a view to practice. It was "this, among other reasons, that induced the Chief Commissioner to "recommend the holding of an Exhibition at Jubbulpore in 1867, which "the Supreme Government have now been pleased to sanction."

CHAPTER XIV.

CONCLUSION

228. It remains for me to notice the assistance specially rendered by individual Officers of this Administration during the year.

229. The Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, acted as Chief Commissioner during five months of the year under report; the Supreme Government can therefore judge of his good services in that capacity. As Judicial Commissioner, he has continued to supervise the Courts in such a manner as to secure real observance of Law and Procedure.

Mr. R. Egerton acted with entire efficiency as Judicial Commissioner during the same period of the year as that mentioned above. On returning to his post as Commissioner of Nagpore, he had to sustain the heavy work incidental to the presidentship of the Committee for the Industrial Exhibition at Nagpore.

230. Mr. C. E. Bernard has continued to discharge his duties as Secretary in all Civil Departments with the same zeal and ability which have been commended on previous occasions. Lieutenant A. Bloomfield has been of great use and assistance as Assistant Secretary.

231. Mr. J. H. Morris, as Settlement Commissioner, has superintended his very important department with the same carefulness and firmness which have been noticed in former Reports. Among the Divisional Commissioners, Captain H. Mackenzie has supervised fully and effectively his extensive charge. Major W. Nembhard and Mr. A. C. Lyall have officiated in the office of Commissioner in a manner that gives high promise of future usefulness.

232. Among the Deputy Commissioners, Mr. M. Low has done the best, and has held the hardest charge during the year. Lieut.-Colonel J. N. H. Maclean and Mr. C. Grant have also proved themselves to be excellent District Officers, while performing Settlement work in addition. The following Deputy Commissioners have done very well :—

Mr. W. B. Jones.	Capt. C. B. Lucie Smith.
Major A. B. Cumberlege.	Mr. J. W. Chisholm.
Capt. F. A. Fenton.	Mr. H. Read.
„ H. F. Newmarch.	

The following Deputy Commissioners also deserve mention :—

Capt. C. L. R. Glasfurd.	Major J. Ashburner.
„ E. R. Twyford.	

Among the Assistant Commissioners—

Capt. J. L. Lock.	Capt. H. J. Lugard.
Lieut. H. C. E. Ward.	Lieut. J. A. Temple.
„ M. M. Bowie.	„ W. Vertue
„ T. A. Scott.	„ J. W. Macdougall.

are specially commended.

Of the Settlement Officers—

Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carnac.	Mr. T. Hewitt.
Mr. A. J. Lawrence.	Mr. A. M. Russell.

have proved highly efficient.

233. Mr. F. Macnaghten has discharged his duties as Judge of the Small Cause Court at Jubbulpore, with an efficiency which is proved by the great increase in the business of the Court.

Captain E. M. Playfair has disposed of satisfactorily the work pertaining to the Cantonment Magistracy of the very large Cantonment of Kamptee.

234. Among the Extra-Assistant Commissioners, the following have been very useful :—

Mr. W. Munton.	Mr. R. Hamilton.
Azeezoodeen.	Mr. W. A. Nedham.
Oulad Hossein.	Mr. S. Hennessy.
Mr. D. A. Cameron.	

235. Among the Tehseeldars, Nehal Chund, of Garurwarra (Nursingpore); Bhaskur Rao, of Nagpore; Devee Pershad, of Baitool; Kesho Sheoram, of Kampta (Bhundara); Nago Rao, of Belaspore; Adjodhia Pershad, of Droog (Raepore): Balmokund Putnaik, of Burgurh (Sumbulpore); Mudad Emam, of Khorai (Saugor); Muksood-ool-Hossein, of Sleemanabad (Jubbulpore); Madho Rao, of Burwai (Nimar); Tukut Singh, Tehseeldar of Huttah (Dumoh),—deserve favorable mention.

236. Of the Officers engaged in ministerial duties, the services of Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent of the Office of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner have been most useful. Commendation is also due to Mr. J. S. Hannagan and Mr. W. A. Russell, the Head Clerks of the Offices of the Commissioners in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Mr. T. Drysdale, Superintendent of the Judicial Commissioner's Office, has been specially commended.

237. In the Police Department the Inspector General, Lieut.-Colonel H. D. Taylor, continues to render great service to these Provinces, by bringing all his subordinates into proper relation with the Magistrates, and by striving to render the Force efficient for all public purposes and acceptable to the people.

Of the Officers subordinate to him, the following are selected for special commendation :—

Capt. F. G Stewart, (who also acted for three months as Inspector General).	Capt. C. S. B. Walton.
Lieut.-Col. G G. Moxon.	Mr. J. M. Berrill.
Capt. H. Fraser.	Capt. J. D. Vallance.
„ W. J. Morris.	Mr. M. P. Hanken.
	Devee Pershad.

Inspectors :—

Mr. W. Price.	Mr. A. Wrixon.

238. In the Educational Department, Captain Loch officiated with credit as Director of Public Instruction. Major Dods has satisfactorily resumed his duties towards the close of the year, on his return from furlough. Lieutenant G. H. Trevor has been highly successful as Inspector of the Northern Circle. Among the Masters of Schools, Mr. A. Drysdale and Mr Durham are deserving of praise.

239. The Inspector of Prisons and Dispensaries, Dr. R. T. Abbott, has supervised these departments in a highly satisfactory manner.

240. In the Account Department, Mr. W. Biss, the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, has conducted the business very efficiently, and promoted many useful reforms.

241. In the Public Works Department, the office of Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner was held throughout the year by Colonel W. Maxwell, with entire efficiency, and really with untiring industry. Captain C. J. Mead, though joining his post as Superintending Engineer late in the year, has already been the means of doing much good.

Among the Executive Engineers, I would select the following for special mention, for the good progress of their works :—

Mr. J. S. Heyman.	Lieut.-Col. A. G. Priestley.
„ J. W. O'Donnell.	Mr. R. Tyndall.

Among the Assistant Engineers, there are five Officers who have done more than ordinarily well, and have since the close of the year received the promotion which they well merited :—

Mr. J. H. Wilson.	Mr. H. Bell.
„ F. L. O'Callaghan.	„ F. Johnston.

Mr. John Span has done good service as Municipal Engineer of the City of Nagpore.

Among the Assistants, I must also mention Mr. J. Whiting, who, as a practical executive, is not surpassed by any Officer in the Department.

242. In the Railway Department, Major J. St. J. Hovenden, Bengal Engineers, and Lieutenant G. W. Oldham, Bombay Engineers, have rendered much assistance to this Administration in all matters connected with that Department.

243. In the Forest Department, Lieutenant J. Forsyth has very efficiently performed the duties of Conservator during the year. Among the Assistants, Lieutenant Doveton and Mr. Jacob have done their duty with an intelligent care and zeal, amidst personal hardship, that merit high praise.

244. The Administration in these Provinces is under great obligations to the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. W. E. Money, and to Mr. F. W. Vere, Deputy Commissioner, for their excellent supervision.

Among the Officers of the Customs Department, Mr. T. Martin, Mr. G. M. Jones, Mr. H. Ives, deserve special mention.

245. In the Professional Survey, Captain R. E. 'Oakes, Colonel G. H. Saxton, Captain A. D. Vanrenen, Captain J. Macdonald, and Mr. J. Mulheran, have ably executed a large amount of useful work.

246. Mr. C. Hutchinson was appointed to the head of the Postal Department towards the close of the year; he has already done much to improve the mail service and the administration of his Department in these Provinces.

247. Among the Medical Officers, the following have distinguished themselves by professional zeal and usefulness:—

Dr. S. C. Townsend.	Dr. J. Brake.
Dr. W. R. Rice.	Dr. W. R. Grylls.
Dr. J. Law.	Mr. G. Law.
Dr. P. Cullen.	Mr. T. King.

248. Although only the best have been mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs, it is but just to state that, as a body, the various Officers under this Administration have, in their respective spheres, during this year exerted themselves with continuous perseverance, not only to execute the Law and to carry out orders, but also to do good permanently both to the departments under their care and to the people in their charge.

NAGPORE
The 23rd July 1866.

R. TEMPLE.